

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MAY 1981

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the Israelis resumed shelling in the south on 6 May while Beirut radio reported a large Israeli military buildup along the southern border. Jerusalem radio denied a Beirut radio report that Israel has installed six heavy artillery batteries in the eastern sector of the Christian border enclave. Beirut radio also reported intermittent clashes along the contact lines in the capital, and Voice of Lebanon radio said eastern Beirut was shelled indiscriminately during the evening. Israeli warplanes flew over the Al-Biq'a' region, Voice of Lebanon also reported.

Israel

In an Independence Day speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin reaffirmed Israel's commitment to the Lebanese Christians. Israel's recent actions in Lebanon, Begin claimed, saved the Christian community, which had stood on the brink of destruction under Syrian attacks. Begin also referred to the Lebanese crisis in an interview with MA'ARIV, published on 6 May, in which he said Israel's concern in Lebanon is not any red line but the problem of guaranteeing the existence of the Christian minority. Regarding Syria's SAM missiles deployed inside Lebanon and on the Syrian-Lebanese border, Begin said Israel's dilemma is that while U.S. diplomatic moves are underway to secure their withdrawal the Syrians could introduce more missiles, making any attempt to knock them out increasingly costly for Israel. Begin praised the Reagan administration, describing it as the most friendly U.S. administration Israel has ever dealt with and noting that parts of President Ronald Reagan's recent message were very important and most favorable for Israel.

Syria

Soviet, Kuwaiti Envoys Arrive--Damascus radio reported that Georgiy Korniyenko, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, arrived in Syria on a 3-day official visit. The radio also reported that Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn met in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad and delivered a message to the Syrian leader from the Kuwaiti amir.

Commentary on Lebanon--A Damascus radio commentary called on all Lebanese, particularly those on whose behalf Israel claims to speak, to prevent Israel from using them as a pretext for intervening in Lebanon and to facilitate the process of national accord. Syria demands that the Lebanese settle their differences without hesitation or conditions, the radio said, and that those accused of dealing with Israel publicly renounce any such links and join with Syria in confronting the Israelis. Syria has prepared itself to confront Israeli schemes in Lebanon, the radio went on, and has made clear and objective calculations.

Military Exercise--Under the direction of President al-Asad, Syrian Armed Forces commander, Damascus radio reported, a mechanized unit carried out a live-fire tactical exercise using all types of land weapons and simulating defensive and counteroffensive operations.

PLO

According to reports by KUNA and the GULF NEWS AGENCY, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar to discuss the Lebanese situation with the leaders of those countries. The Voice of Palestine reported that after his talks with Saudi leaders, 'Arafat said the PLO fully supports Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis' 14-point plan for conciliation among the various Lebanese parties.

Egypt

In response to an appeal by the people of Zahlah for Egyptian aid in expelling the Syrians from Lebanon, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a statement strongly criticizing both Syria and Israel for their actions in Lebanon and reporting that Egypt has begun major diplomatic moves in support of the Lebanese people. The statement, carried textually by MENA, accused Syria of wreaking havoc in Lebanon and Israel of aggravating the crisis in disregard of the peace process. Egypt, it added, has summoned the Asian, African, European and Latin American ambassadors to brief them on the gravity of the Lebanese crisis and the need for international action to protect Lebanon.

Libya

Reaction to U.S. Expulsion of Diplomats--Citing a report in the Abu Dhabi paper AL-WAHDAH, QNA said the secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington has stated that his country will respond to the U.S. decision to expel the Libyan diplomatic mission, adding that the suspension of oil sales is only one of several weapons that could be used against the United States.

Jallud Interview--In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily AL-QABAS, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud said that Libya is a neutral country but that U.S. pressures "do not help" it to remain neutral and could force it to become completely pro-Soviet. He said current U.S.-Libyan relations are characterized by hostility on the U.S. side, but he described Soviet-Libyan relations as relations of true friendship. He denied that Libya's dependence on Soviet arms could make it a hostage of the Soviet Union, asserting that Libya has several sources of arms. Jallud said that Libya's offer of air support to protect Lebanese airspace is "pending" and that Libya provides arms to the Palestinians and Lebanese national movement. Speaking of the proposed Syrian-Libyan merger, he said that because the two countries have different ideologies, the proposals of the two sides for the merger must be studied and differences must be examined. Pointing out that Libya has signed the nuclear nonproliferation agreement, Jallud stated that Libya has neither the intention nor the resources to produce a nuclear bomb but that it intends to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Inter-Arab Affairs

At the OAPEC conference in Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar proposed that oil prices be frozen in order to avoid disputes among OPEC members, KUNA reported. According to the GULF NEWS AGENCY, Qatari Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah told a Kuwaiti press conference that there is a "trend" toward freezing oil prices as a result of the oil surplus on world markets.

Iran

Writing in the daily MIZAN, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said that the government's draft budget, which will be 80 percent funded by oil revenues, will make Iran as dependent on Western oil-consuming countries and reactionary oil-producing countries as it was in the past, AFP reported. The sale of 2.5 million barrels of oil a day--to compensate for a hidden budget deficit--will prevent Iran from increasing its oil prices and controlling its production, he asserted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In an interview with Tehran radio, President Bani-Sadr claimed that in the last month, Iran has suffered 102 dead and 486 wounded at the battlefield but has killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqis.



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'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, RELATED ISSUES

LDO70831 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 May 81 pp 1, 2

[Wahib Muhammad Ghurab 5 May interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Riyadh]

[Text] King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz yesterday received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. The meeting, which lasted 4 hours, was attended by Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Minister of Defense and Aviation Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

'Arafat made a statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in which he praised the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's stand on Arab causes, particularly the Palestine problem and the city of Jerusalem. He said that Israel is trying to eliminate the PLO since it has proved its presence in various international quarters and warned that an Israeli military intervention is likely at any moment and that the PLO will reply to the intervention in every way it can in defense of its cause.

The following is the text of the interview with 'Arafat:

[Question] What is the purpose of your visit to Saudi Arabia, what did you discuss with the Saudi leaders, and how is the situation in southern Lebanon and in Lebanon in general?

[Answer] In fact my visit is concerned not only with this situation but with all the situations, developments and dangers threatening our Arab nation in this critical and grave condition, foremost of which is the barbaric and frenzied Israeli escalation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in the south whose results will affect not just Lebanon but the whole situation and our Arab nation.

Recently there has been an escalation in the situation. This was evident in the barbaric Israeli air raids on Lebanese towns and villages as well as on Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon and in the ground and naval attacks by the Israeli forces which, in all these attacks, used the latest U.S. weapons, including those internationally banned. Following this came the recent developments in the activities of the Lebanese brothers, headed by President Ilyas Sarkis, and the Syrian brothers with the aim of bringing about Lebanese detente, activities which were interiered with by the Israelis with the aim of sabotaging the plans which were being worked out in Lebanon. The Israelis did this by escalating their operations not only against the Palestinian revolution and the joint forces but also against the legitimate deterrent forces by shooting down two Syrian helicopters. You also know about the development of events, the threats, and the [military] concentrations that are increasing daily. As I said before, there have been Israeli concentrations in the area of Marj 'Uyun, Al-Khalisah, Metulla, and Al-Khiyam. There are two Israeli units [not further specified] in this area in addition to the air force and the missile batteries.

In view of the circumstances I have just described I had to come here, despite the difficult situation we are facing in southern Lebanon, in order to have consultations with King Khalid, Crown Prince Fahd and the brother Saudi officials. I had two meetings with King Khalid and then a meeting with Amir Fahd. The two meetings lasted about 4 hours and were attended by National Guard Commander Amir 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Defense Minister Amir Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. We discussed various Arab and international issues, including the Palestine problems and developments in Lebanon. We also discussed bilateral relations between the Palestinian revolution and Saudi Arabia, of whose strength and solidity we are proud.

We are also proud of and appreciate the firm and decisive stand which King Khalid, the crown prince and the Saudi Government and people adopt toward their fraternal Palestinian people. This stand--whereby the Saudi Government and people persistently adhere to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return and to establish an independent state of their own under PLO leadership--has been made clear to the European and American officials who have visited Saudi Arabia.

[Question] Saudi Arabia is carrying out large-scale contacts with many countries in order to avoid a further deterioration of the situation. The most recent of these efforts was King Khalid's telegram to President Reagan. How do you evaluate these efforts?

[Answer] In our discussions we have touched on this subject but I cannot reveal all that took place during the talks. You know that as soon as the situation escalated and became acute I sent a telegram to King Khalid in his capacity as king of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and protector of the two holy mosques as well as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization. I received an answer to this telegram and the king has carried out intensive contacts. His government is continuing these contacts in order to deal with the situation from all its aspects.

[Question] In the light of the developments Lebanon is experiencing, do you believe that the danger of military confrontation between Syria and the PLO on the one side and Israel on the other is very imminent?

[Answer] The aim of the Israeli military and political officials is to destroy the PLO and hit its military forces. This is evident in the raids which are carried out not only on military positions but also on Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in their villages and towns. Since August 1980 we have been experiencing an extensive war of attrition. I spoke about this matter in one of my speeches when I termed it an accordion operation. Israel is dangerously escalating its activities not only against the revolution but also against the joint [Lebanese-Palestinian] forces. This escalation could lead to a Syrian-Palestinian military confrontation of this Israeli aggression, especially as the enemy commanders are not easing the preparations they have been making but are bragging and declaring that they are preparing for a military operation. A cable I received today confirms that the concentrations in that area have been completed. We must also take into consideration the possibility of an Israeli landing in cooperation with the isolationist forces in the area of Juniyah. This is what is termed an accordion operation. However, everybody must know that the Palestinian fighter has surmounted the barrier of fear. The (Ash-Shaqif) battle is the best proof of this. All these events make us prepare ourselves without fear. The confrontation that has taken place between our joint forces and the Israeli forces in the past 10 days has proved to them that, even with our limited capabilities, we will not stand idle but will retaliate against aggression. We are not afraid at all and will confront all aggressions. We must calculate and they must do the same.

[Question] It was said that the area would experience important developments during Haig's visit to the area with a view to putting pressure on and hitting Syria and crushing the Palestinian resistance in order to implement the peace process. What is your opinion?

[Answer] We are aware of all these matters. We spoke about them several months ago and I raised the alarm for my nation a long time ago. What I spoke about then is happening now. God be my witness, I gave forewarning. He who claims to be able to hit Syria and the Palestinian resistance is welcome to try. If they seek to threaten us, we shall not be threatened nor afraid. In our position we are defending the dignity of our Arab nation and we shall fight until we achieve victory. They depend on American aid, as Richard Allen revealed when he said that Israel has the right to engage in hot pursuit of the Palestinians.

What is the meaning of this pursuit? How does he allow himself to speak about this pursuit? Is it a hunting party? If we are forced by circumstances, Richard Allen and others shall know as the Israeli administration knows that we will fight. Perhaps they remember the 8-day war and Brzezinski's words "goodbye PLO." Where is Brzezinski now and where are we?

[Question] Before coming to Riyadh you met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Can you tell us something about the nature of the discussions you had with him?

[Answer] As you know, we and our Syrian brothers are faced with this Israeli threat for which, I say, there is American backing. I have evidence to prove this despite the denial of the U.S. State Department. I discussed with President al-Asad a number of subjects for dealing with the situation in all its aspects.

[Question] Two days ago you met with the Libyan foreign secretary and the Syrian defense minister in the presence of two Libyan army commanders. Does this mean that military steps have been taken by the three sides to deal with the situation?

[Answer] In fact the whole question is that Colonel al-Qadhafi sent Brig Gen Abu Bakr Yunis and 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki while he was visiting Yugoslavia. Syrian-Libyan, Palestinian-Libyan, and Syrian-Libyan-Palestinian military and political meetings were held to deal with all contingencies. We must not forget that all of us are members of the Steadfastness Front.

[Question] According to press reports, Waldheim has received the green light from the United States to start organizing an international conference for resolving the Middle East issue. What is your comment on this?

[Answer] I have no knowledge of this. All that I am aware of is that Waldheim has appealed to the fighting forces in the south [of Lebanon] for a cease-fire. We responded to the appeal but the Israeli side continued to violate it because there is an Israeli-isolationist plan with American backing to create [iqaz] a new Israel in the Arab homeland.

[Question] Let us go back to the international conference on the Middle East issue. There is a Soviet proposal in this connection which was revived during the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit to Moscow. What is your opinion on this conference?

[Answer] There is no specific Soviet proposal in this form so far. The Soviets have not given details of their initiative which was propounded by Brezhnev. You are aware that our National Council has welcomed this initiative.

[Question] Reports said that you have addressed a message to the UN secretary general regarding the activities of the Palestinian resistance in the Lebanese territories. Can we know something about it?

[Answer] I have addressed several messages to world leaders following the escalation of the barbaric military action against the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples. I have addressed messages to King Khalid, Fidel Castro, Habib Chatti, Chedli Klibi and Waldheim as heads of international organizations. I have also sent a message to the chairman of the Security Council through our UN delegate as well as to Brezhnev, the Chinese leadership and a number of our friends in the world in order to help us to confront all the developments that I have just mentioned.

[Question] A number of West European leaders visited Saudi Arabia recently. These included Thatcher and Schmidt who said that the world this summer shall witness an Arab-European conference that will be attended by the PLO. What is your opinion on these statements?

[Answer] There is nothing new in this. There is an Arab-European dialogue of which we are members. Last year we led the Arab group to the dialogue because we were chairman of the Arab League Council. Next October there will be a meeting in London at the level of Arab and EEC foreign ministers. The PLO is a member of this dialogue and of the Arab delegation.

[Question] What is your opinion of the Kuwaiti proposal to achieve detente in Lebanon?

[Answer] As you know, today I will have discussions with the Kuwaiti brothers, including Shaykh Jabir, and I will brief them on the situation and discuss with them various subjects, including the Kuwaiti proposal.

[Question] How do you visualize Lebanese detente and how can it be achieved?

[Answer] Lebanese detente should be among the Lebanese themselves. The basis of such detente has been proclaimed more than once in the document that was approved by all the Lebanese as well as during the Arab summits and the Bayt ad-Din conference. There are foundations for this detente which have been approved by all the parties. Therefore, it is required from us on the Arab level to give positive momentum to the Lebanese-Lebanese dialogue without which this detente cannot be achieved.

[Question] It has been reported that the United States has contacted you through other parties in order to help in easing tension. Is it true that such contact has taken place?

[Answer] I am not aware that the United States has contacted us through a third party. But Waldheim and a number of Arab parties have contacted us. But none of them said that he was speaking on behalf of the United States.

[Question] What will be your answer if such contact takes place?

[Answer] Why does the United States not contact us directly? We are the difficult and the basic component in the Middle East equation. Why is the United States burying its head in the sand like an ostrich?

[Question] What is your opinion of Schmidt's statements on the Palestinian problem and the PLO following his visit to Riyadh?

[Answer] I salute Schmidt for this statement and in this regard I would like to thank H.M. Majesty King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd who have helped in bringing about this important West German development.

[Question] Can we know about the nature of contacts with the Soviets?

[Answer] I have sent a message to the Soviet leaders and received two messages from them. Within 48 hours a high-level Soviet envoy is due to arrive in order to hold talks with the Syrian brothers and with us.

[Question] What do you think of Margaret Thatcher's statement regarding the European initiative?

[Answer] The British must remember that they were the major cause for the Palestinian tragedy because of the Balfour Declaration, this collusion and the help they gave [to the Israelis] when our country was under their occupation for 30 years. They must remember this before they stipulate any conditions because historically they are responsible for our people's ordeal.

[Question] Do you see in the European officials' visit to Saudi Arabia and the statements they made any progress in their stands toward the cause?

[Answer] There is no doubt that there is progress, particularly in the clear and frank stand declared by Chancellor Schmidt. There is something positive even in Thatcher's statements.

HABIB TRIP COMPARED WITH KISSINGER'S SHUTTLES

JN061948 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1548 GMT 6 May 81

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] What will Philip Habib do in our area? Is he a stereotype in microcosm of Kissinger?

Philip Habib is on his way today to the area at the beginning of a diplomatic tour which, according to the expectations of some observers, may become a shuttle mission under the headline: to calm down the crisis resulting from the deployment of Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa'. The official U.S. circles are trying to make Philip Habib's tour look like a mere attempt to acquaint himself with the opinions of the concerned leaders in Beirut, Damascus and Tel Aviv, and say that he is not bringing any definite ideas but that these will be formulated throughout his inspection visits to the concerned parties.

So far, three stands are awaiting for Habib; the stands of Syria, the Zionist entity and the Lebanese authority. These stands may be summarized as followed:

1. Syria announces that it will not withdraw the missiles from Al-Biqa' area because these missiles have become part of the Arab Deterrent Forces' basic defense potential.
2. Israel announces its determination that Syria must withdraw its missiles from Al-Biqa' because these hinder or threaten the activities of Israeli aircraft over Lebanon.
3. Lebanon announces, through its prime minister, its surprise at the exaggerated uproar on the missiles issue. Such a stand will seem to partly support the Syrian stand and partly try to remain neutral.

The U.S. stand, therefore, is to appear as if it is trying to mediate among the three conflicting parties. In essence the U.S. stand is with the Israeli viewpoint and Habib's visit to the area does not go beyond serving the Israeli stand and achieving gains for the Israelis under the guise of mediation or neutrality. When the Americans move on this level thus restricting the problem only to the issue of the legitimate Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa', they purposely and conspiratorially disregard several facts in this part of the region. These facts constitute the explosive situation not only in the Lebanese arena but in the entire region as well.

The first of these facts is that the cause of the current crisis is not the deployment of missiles or, as the Americans term it, the impairing of the balance of power in the Lebanese area, but the Israeli insistence on maintaining Lebanon open for all sorts of Israeli interventions in Lebanon's affairs which include the creation of a ministate in southern Lebanon now crammed with Zionist tanks and rockets launchers, the belligerent roaming of Lebanese skies by Israeli planes, mass massacres of Lebanese and Palestinians in southern Lebanon and more.

When the Israelis did such things, the Americans did not consider it to be aggression against an independent state or a threat to the balance of power. At best the Americans issued obscure statements only to absolve themselves of blame. Those statements meant nothing but more support for Israeli belligerency as well as justification for this belligerency in claiming that the Israelis have the right to pursue the Palestinian fedayeen into Lebanon. Such a U.S. stand therefore denies any U.S. claims to neutrality or mediation.

Simply speaking, it is possible to say that what Israel did and what it is planning to do on the military level is taking place by means of U.S.-made weapons and U.S. political and informational coverage.

The second fact is that it might be in the tactical interests of the United States that a direct and large-scale war not break out between Syria and Israel. This, however, does not mean that the U.S. stand can be viewed as an honest or moderate stand. It means that the United States will do all it can to serve Israel's interests other than by means of war. If, however, avoiding a war appears to be impossible, then the United States will not hesitate in supporting the Israeli stand and providing Israel with all kinds of political, military and economic assistance. Perhaps we may recall the situation on the eve of the 1967 war when the Americans leaked to the Egyptians that they would prevent Israel from carrying out an aggression. The aggression, however, took place and the United States adopted it completely and provided it with all kinds of political assistance and complete coverage until this day.

Therefore, utmost caution must be exercised on the current U.S. move when we evaluate and deal with it. Since when has the United States been a mediator between the Phantom and its victims? How can the United States adopt a peaceful trend while it is the strategic ally of the Zionist command which is carrying out crimes daily in Lebanon, Palestine and the Arab region?

The third fact is that if the U.S. efforts are now connected with the Lebanese arena, and its dimensions on the local, Syrian and Israeli levels, can we isolate the Lebanese arena from the larger arena that surrounds it, that is, the arena of the Middle East? The United States can never adopt a peaceful trend in Lebanon while at the same time declaring its aggressive and hostile trend in the entire Middle East, or even in the overall areas of tension in the world. This is so because Israel, which is the principal cause for igniting the fire in the Lebanese arena and which does not act without having previously consulted with the U.S. administration, is also the main cause for tension in the entire Middle East.

This tension takes place through Israel's insistence on continuing its occupation of Arab territories and its persistence in confiscating the Palestinian people's national rights. The United States has never been a stranger to this Israeli stand. In practice it has been the one behind such a stand and the instigator, continuing to provide the means of strength for this stand. That's why it seems illogical to evaluate the U.S. stand on the Lebanese crisis on the basis that it is characterized by moderation at a time when the entire world realizes that the U.S. stand on the Middle East is extremely hostile to the peoples in the area, their future and their inalienable rights.

In light of these firm facts we can say that Philip Habib's visit might develop into a shuttle trip similar to Kissinger's conspiratorial trips, which have indisputably been the cause of the tragedy in the Middle East and in Lebanon in particular. This new visit is a smaller version of the Kissinger experiment. If, however, this experiment is not repulsed at the beginning by a decisive Arab stand, then it will lead to results that contain more danger than Kissinger's shuttle trips, which began and have not as yet ended under the slogan that serving Israel's security and expansionist and military interests is above all other considerations.

QADDUMI CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIA

NC060741 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Sofia--Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, left the Bulgarian capital yesterday following a 3-day official visit.

Brother Abu al-Lutf had met with Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov and the foreign minister as well as with a number of Bulgarian party and state officials. President Zhivkov affirmed his country's continued full support of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Brother Abu al-Lutf briefed the Bulgarian president on the results of the 15th Palestine National Council session and the resolutions the council adopted to strengthen Palestinian national unity and resist the imperialist and Zionist designs in the Arab area.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with the serious Israeli and isolationist military escalation in Lebanon, particularly in southern Lebanon. The Bulgarian president and the head of the PLO Political Department discussed the dimensions of this escalation and the Israeli campaigns against the Palestinian issue as well as the Palestinian people's struggle on the Arab and international levels.

BAHRAIN'ARAFAT SPEAKS ON AMIR MEETING; LEAVES FOR QATAR

JN061556 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Manama, 6 May (GNA)--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received here today PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accompanied by Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Bahrain PLO office director Wafa Nabhan.

Following the meeting 'Arafat stated that he had briefed the Bahraini amir on the current developments of the Arab situation, particularly in Lebanon, in the wake of repeated Israeli attacks against southern Lebanon and Israel's threats against Syria. 'Arafat stressed that these attacks are aimed at eliminating the Palestinian revolution and at turning Lebanon into a second Israel with support from the U.S. Government. He made reference to the U.S. national security adviser's statements in which he said: The Israeli Army has the right to militarily chase the Palestinians.

'Arafat warned the Arab states about the grave situation facing the Arab nation from the repeated Israeli attacks against Lebanon. He praised the stand adopted by the Bahraini Government and people and toward the Palestinian issue.

'Arafat left Manama for Doha following a short visit as part of his current tour of the Arab Gulf states.

KUWAITGULF COUNCIL URGED TO REJECT FOREIGN BASES

GF061645 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 May 81 pp 1, 24

[By Editor in Chief Ahmad Jasim an-Nisf]

[Text] No foreign military bases in the Gulf. This is the first basis on which the Gulf Cooperation Council should be founded. Anyone who accepts this is welcome as a full member in the regional organization. Anyone who rejects this principle has no place in it at all.

Gulf issues no longer brook any civilities, stalling or maneuvering. They have become so serious that a decisive resolution is necessary--a decisive resolution of policies, clarifying them and rejecting middle-of-road situations.

The Gulf Cooperation Council represents the unification of foreign policies of the countries of the region. The first principle of a united foreign policy is to remove any foreign military bases in the region and to keep it out of the arena of international conflict.

Kuwait will not sign the document to join the Gulf Cooperation Council if foreign military bases exist in the territory of any one of its six members. This is a political decision on which there can be no compromise, because it is radically linked to the region's future and destiny.

The only option for the Gulf Cooperation Council--if we truly want it to be a strong and cohesive federal body--is that all its founding members should be committed to the principle of no military bases in their territory. The council's membership should be restricted to countries that are committed to this principle, even if the number of council members must be reduced to only five and even if the council does not cover the entire Gulf region.

An adoption of a united policy by the council members is a basic element in the council's foundation and a major factor in its survival and success. It would be better for the council to adopt clear stands from the very beginning rather than to begin its course weak and disunited, reflecting only a semblance of unity and cohesion.

Unification experiments in the Arab world have suffered setbacks, because they were not clear in their policies or decisive in their stands. We do not want the Gulf Cooperation Council to suffer a setback, because at present it is almost the only harmonious nucleus for future pan-Arab unity. Therefore, so that the matter may be decided from the beginning, no bases or no council. There can be no compromise in the choice, because it is impossible to bring two opposites together in the same entity, particularly if it is a federal entity.

SAUDI ARABIA

CHANCELLOR KREISKY SEES NEED FOR PALESTINE SOLUTION

LD061310 Riyadh SPA in English 1228 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Riyadh, 6 May (SPA)--Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky emphasized today there would be no fair solution to the Middle East cause unless a fair solution to the Palestine issue is achieved. In a statement to his accompanying information delegation Kreisky pointed out he had told PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir Arafat this fact.

Dr Kreisky hailed the role played by the kingdom internationally and its sound and wise policy towards the international topics particularly its world oil policy.

In his meeting with Austrian businessmen in Saudi Arabia yesterday Dr Kreisky urged them to do their best and work sincerely and honestly with the Saudi businessmen and financial institutions in order to go ahead with the desirable cooperation sought by the two friendly governments.

UAE

AT-TURAYKI SAYS LEBANON REFUSED AIR DEFENSE HELP

GF070658 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 6 May 81 p 11

[Press conference given by Libyan Foreign Secretary Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki in Abu Dhabi on 5 May]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you have any specific proposals regarding the situation in Lebanon?

[Answer] As you know, Lebanon is a member of the Arab League and a signatory to the Arab joint defense agreement. Thus, it is the duty of Arab countries to support Lebanon militarily in the face of enemy schemes by sending Arab troops to stand alongside those who are defending Lebanon, its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

[Question] Does Libya intend to send forces to Lebanon or Syria?

[Answer] We proposed to Lebanon to send air defense units. However, in view of its makeup the Lebanese Government did not accept the offer. For our part we are prepared to take part in the battle, which we believe is a pan-Arab and not a Lebanese battle. As for Syria we consider ourselves its partners in its confrontation against the Zionist enemy.

[Question] Did Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi discuss in Moscow the possibility of the Soviet Union providing an international cover [ghita'] for any Arab action on Lebanon?

[Answer] We appreciate the Soviet Union's stand as a friend. However, the responsibility of liberation is an Arab responsibility. We do not need international cover to liberate and defend our land. When the Libyan people rose against Italy and when they put an end to the presence of U.S. and British bases in Libya they did not need international cover. We are against the logic of waiting for an international cover to defend and liberate one's land.

[Question] What are the results of Colonel al-Qadhafi's visit to Moscow?

[Answer] The results of the visit are positive. The joint statement underlines continued Soviet support for the Arab nation and the rejection of attempts to internationalize the Lebanese issue.

[Question] Is it possible to find a common factor between Colonel al-Qadhafi's visit to Moscow and the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit to the Soviet capital?

[Answer] Al-Qadhafi's visit was arranged some time ago. He went to Moscow to speak on a national level. We are happy about the Kuwaiti minister's visit. It is a good step, which we encourage. One Arab effort complements another.

[Question] Following a period of tension, what is the state of your relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Answer] Libya has no bilateral problems. Our differences with Arab countries are differences over national issues. We did not sever relations with Egypt even after the armed border clashes between us but we did sever them when As-Sadat visited occupied Palestine and betrayed the national cause. We have not severed our relations with Saudi Arabia despite our radical differences regarding our stands toward the United States. We are prepared to enter a dialogue with our brothers in Saudi Arabia and discuss all issues.

[Question] Libya has extensive economic petroleum relations with the United States. How compatible is this with the view that holds the United States party to the hostility against the Arabs?

[Answer] We totally differ with the United States regarding the pan-Arab cause. At the same time we are pursuing a nonaligned policy, both in the political and the economic spheres. We are not opposed to equitable relations, but we do not accept any pressures regarding the pan-Arab cause. U.S. Governments have constantly sought to compel the Libyan revolution to change its stands. We believe that the American people are misled and that successive administrations in the United States are responsible for this. It is for this reason that we have established popular relations with the American people.

As for economic relations with the United States we are not opposed to their continuation within the framework of equitable relations. Indeed, we in Libya have no objection to buying arms from the United States, and we have asked for this, but the U.S. Government refused. If you want economic relations with the United States to be employed in the service of the Arab cause we are prepared to do this as part of a unified Arab stand that guarantees the effectiveness and continuity of any step in that direction.

[Question] Following the withdrawal of Libyan forces from Chad do you expect an improvement in your relations with France?

[Answer] We have no objection to developing our relations with France, but at the same time we do not accept the presence of colonialist forces--whatever their source--in Africa. As you, and we, reject any outside interference in Gulf affairs we, and the African countries, reject any foreign interference in Africa's affairs. This does not mean we are opposed to constructive cooperation. Libya's assistance to Chad was at the request of its government which, thanks to this assistance, succeeded in ending a 16-year armed rebellion.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR U.S. 6 MAY

NC061701 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid left Cairo this afternoon for Washington on a 3-day visit to the United States. Our correspondent has learned that the deputy prime minister will attend the meeting to be held by the George Washington group of U.S. businessmen and industrialists to discuss the basis for increasing U.S. investments in Egyptian development projects. He is expected to explain the economic policy on which the budget and development plan for the next fiscal year are based. He will also confirm that the government is making efforts to increase and strengthen Egyptian and foreign investments in the new plan. Dr 'Abd al-Majid will discuss with U.S. officials the possibilities of strengthening and developing economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

GHALI RETURNS FROM LONDON, GENEVA, MAKES COMMENTS

NC061852 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo from Geneva this evening after a 10-day tour during which he visited Britain and Switzerland. Following his arrival, Ghali stated that the aim of his visit to Britain was to hold contacts with the British foreign secretary and senior officials to expound on Egyptian views toward the European initiative and interest in it being consistent with the U.S. moves, in order to avoid duality and to coordinate them for the purpose of establishing peace in the area.

Ghali said that he received a favorable response from British officials on Egypt's stand. He said that his talks also dealt with Egypt's interest in the Lebanese crisis, condemnation of any intervention in Lebanon and safeguarding its territorial integrity.

Ghali said that his talks in London were held at the government, parliamentary, party and specialized institute levels. He added that these organizations and circles are interested in the Egyptian moves to achieve peace and the British role in the European effort. Ghali further said that he discussed certain African issues, foremost of which was the Libyan intervention in Chad and the need to adopt a decision to confront this intervention, which is causing instability in Africa.

Speaking on his visit to Geneva, Ghali said that he and Health Minister Mamduh Jabr, who is currently there, exerted efforts to confront the maneuvers of the rejectionist countries, primarily Libya, to move the regional health office from Alexandria to another capital. He said that he held contacts with African foreign ministers to eliminate the plots of the rejectionist countries.

Commenting on the maneuvers of certain countries in the Nonaligned Movement against Egypt, Ghali said that Egypt is a nonaligned country, that it contributed to establishing the movement and that it is doing its utmost to safeguard this movement from any deviation, whether leftist or rightist.

Ghali said that Egypt's policy is based on the desire for cooperation between the Western and Eastern camps. He said: We will continue to pursue a nonaligned policy because it is one of the cornerstones of Egypt's foreign policy. He stressed that any attempt against Egypt in the Nonaligned Movement will fail, as other previous attempts have failed.

Dayan Meeting in Zurich

NC061750 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)--Following his return to Cairo today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali stated that he incidentally met with former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at Zurich airport while he was on his way back to Cairo. He said that he discussed with Dayan the peace efforts in the Middle East.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON LEBANON

NC062148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)--Egypt has reaffirmed that it stands firmly by its brothers in Lebanon in their rejection of aggression, the attempts at partition and the calls of isolationists and secessionists and in their demand for the respect of the Lebanese people's sovereignty and Lebanon's legitimate institutions by stopping this flagrant violation of their basic rights to live in peace, security and stability like other peoples and nations.

In a statement released by the Foreign Ministry today, Egypt called on the Arab governments to realize their responsibility toward the atrocities to which a fraternal Arab people are being subjected for no reason, and toward the Syrian occupation, the danger of which to Lebanon's security was first raised by Egypt. Egypt also was the first to call attention to the fact that the Syrian forces cannot provide protection for any Arab side. The following is the text of the statement made by a responsible source in the Foreign Ministry:

President Anwar as-Sadat and the Arab people of Egypt have received with extreme interest the appeal sent by the people of the city of Zahlah in fraternal Lebanon after being subjected for a long time to acts of persecution and barbaric extermination, acts devoid of Arab values and the simplest human principles.

The Egyptian Government and people are concerned and reaffirm that they stand firmly by our brothers in Lebanon in their rejection of aggression, the attempts at partition and the calls of the isolationists and secessionists and by our brothers' demand for respect of the Lebanese people's sovereignty and legitimate institutions and stopping this flagrant violation of their basic rights to live in peace, security and stability like other peoples and nations.

The continuation of this oppressive aggression and the increasing deterioration in the security situation in various parts of Lebanon expose the truth of the schemes which the Syrian military occupation is serving and the threat of the Syrian forces, which are wreaking havoc on Lebanon under guidance from the ruling regime in Damascus. This state of affairs also places before all Arab governments their responsibilities toward the atrocities to which a fraternal Arab people are being subjected for no reason and toward the continuation of the Syrian occupation, the danger of which to Lebanon's security was first raised by Egypt. Egypt was also the first country to call attention to the fact that the Syrian forces cannot provide protection to any Arab side. Accordingly, this armed presence contradicts the Arab nation's national interests.

In addition, the aggressive Israeli operations are contributing to exacerbating the situation in Lebanon in a way that is not in the interest of the peoples of the area and that does not respect the peace process, but increases the acuteness of the problem and leads to the continuation of the vicious circle of violence, sabotage and instability.

Egypt began a major diplomatic move in support of the Lebanese people after President as-Sadat received the appeal of the Zahlah people. The Foreign Ministry urgently summoned the African, Asian, European and Latin American ambassadors and informed them of the gravity of the situation in Lebanon and the need for the international community to take action to safeguard Lebanon's security and safety.

PAPER CALLS ON UAE, QATAR TO STOP FUNDING ADF

NC050826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)--AL-JUMHURIYAH today calls on the UAE and Qatar to stop financing the Syrian deterrent forces in Lebanon as both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have done. The paper says that with the presence of the Syrian forces, Lebanon is not in a better situation than before their entry. In this presence there has been destruction and ruin, the Lebanese fought one another and with the Palestinians, and Lebanon came to the brink of an explosion--the consequences of which are known only to God.

The paper explains that President al-Asad embezzled Arab funds to liberate the Golan, in which he did not succeed, and he also embezzled funds to restore peace and security in Lebanon--but he led Lebanon to the abyss. In its commentary, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Hafiz al-Asad will cry out against these decisions, and his information media will make him appear the sole struggler and hero who is fighting alone in the field for the honor of every Arab. However, the answer to this is simple: To date, what have the Syrian deterrent forces done for Lebanon since their formation?

EGYPTIAN-DESIGNED MISSILES SUCCESSFULLY TESTED

Saqr-30 Missile Test

NC060914 Cairo MENA in English 0830 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)--Defence and Military Production Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah yesterday watched a demonstration of the first integral surface-to-surface missile system designed, developed and manufactured by Egyptian experts, reports AL-AHRAM in its second-lead story. The new weapon system, which is at the same standard of foreign weapons systems, was designed for highly effective saturation shelling on a broad war front to support assault forces, named Saqr-30. The new system has an effective range of 30 kilometres, an equivalent system purchased from the Soviet Union and used in the October 1973 war, the BM-21 covered a range of only 20 kilometres. Saqr-30's anti-personnel war-head cost is one quarter the cost of the BM-21. Saqr-30 is highly effective against open and dug-out targets spread over a broad front.

Saqr-30, Al-Ghab Missile

NC052239 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Defense and War Production Minister Lt Gen 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah and senior armed forces commanders today attended the practical demonstration during which the missile Saqr-30 [Hawk-30] was tested. This missile is a universally sophisticated [words indistinct] whose range reaches 30 km and has a warhead which carries antipersonnel and anti-tank bombs and antitank mines. The missile is distinguished by a high fire intensity and effectiveness in supporting an attack and hitting exposed and specialized targets spread over large areas within a 30-km range. It is a surface-to-surface missile.

During this demonstration another type of missile which the industrialization organization had developed was displayed. This is the Al-Ghab [Forest] sophisticated missile. It is a sophisticated [words indistinct] missile whose range of fire is 8 km. It is used by the Egyptian special forces. The multiple-purpose missile can be used to form a smoke screen for camouflage purposes or to illuminate the battlefield and help direct the gunfire at night. It can also help the guided antitank missiles during night clashes.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES YOUTHS ON CURRENT ISSUES 1 MAY

NC011830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 1 May 81

[Text] Mit Abu al-Kawn, 1 May (MENA)--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat held his second meeting with Egyptian youths at noon today, after the Friday prayers, at his home in Mit Abu al-Kawn.

The meeting, which lasted 1 hour, was attended by Minister of State for the Presidency and for Culture and Information Mansur Hasan, Al-Minufiyah Governor Mahrus Abu Husayn, Assistant Secretary General of the National Democratic Party Kamal ash-Shadhili, the party youths secretary Dr Ahmad Mursi and the youths' provincial leaders.

In a statement on what took place at the meeting, Mansur Hasan said that President as-Sadat began his discussion by outlining the most important current events, namely the Egyptian-Sudanese relations and the events in Lebanon.

He added that President as-Sadat was anxious to explain the various dimensions of these two subjects so that the youths may be fully aware of the details of the current situation. On Sudan, the president dealt with the Arab relations in general. He stressed that the relations between Egypt and Sudan were blood relations and those of a shared lifeline--the Nile River.

The president noted that Sudan had been subjected to strong measures and pressures in order to break off its relations with Egypt. However, the matters finally established that the blood relationship between Egypt and Sudan was stronger than any pressures.

President as-Sadat stressed that since 1971 Egypt has been following with keen interest the plans and plots concocted against Sudan, its stability and independence. The president affirmed that Egypt works in cooperation with President Ja'far Numayri to foil these plots. The president concluded his comments on Sudan by saying that Egypt will stand by the Sudan at the first sign of a danger against it.

Mansur Hasan said that President as-Sadat then discussed the events in Lebanon, explaining that the 'Alawite Ba'thist regime in Damascus is directly responsible for what is taking place in Lebanon. The Ba'thist regime has attempted since 1975 to cover up its disgraceful role in the October war and its failure to achieve the second disengagement after Egypt had brought about the first disengagement. This was in addition to its desire to dominate the neighboring Arab areas, the instability of the domestic front and the outbreak of the civil war against the 'Alawite regime. For all these factors, collectively, the only outlet for Al-Asad's regime was to enter Lebanon in a foreign adventure in an attempt to prove itself, under the pretext of protecting the Palestinians. The result was that it spent 7 years in Lebanon attacking all parties without exception--whether they were Muslims, Christians, progressives or Palestinians. Al-Asad's regime did not hesitate to ignore the Palestine question and the interests of the Palestinians who were in southern Lebanon in addition to the interests of the Lebanese people. The president said that a solution of the Lebanese crisis rests in the hands of Lebanon's leaders, who should frankly declare that they do not want the Syrian Army to stay in their territory.

Mansur Hasan added that President as-Sadat then moved to the issue of the weekly meeting, saying that it is the method that the youths must follow in order to perform the trust they are shouldering to serve Egypt.

President as-Sadat said that God created man to be his inheritor on earth. God put all creatures in man's service, so he can do his duty as God's inheritor on earth. President as-Sadat stressed that faith is the most powerful weapon for man, to exercise his responsibility as God's inheritor on earth. He said that genuine faith could shake mountains and is stronger than any calculations by machines or tests. He gave an example of what happened when he made the decision to launch the October war. At that time the computers calculated that it was impossible for Egypt to launch a war. Faith, he said, was stronger than all calculations. He said that the term "God is great" used by the Egyptians was more effective than any weapons.

President as-Sadat told the youths that we are required to build the intrinsic force of the genuine Egyptian man in order to be able to perform our duty. He told the youths that man consists of spirit, mind and flesh and that it is necessary to strengthen all these components. The spirit is strengthened by faith, the mind by reading and knowledge and the body by care and physical drills. He said that by following this behavior the youths can achieve balance in their personalities.

Mansur Hasan said that President as-Sadat will hold his next meeting with the youths after next Friday prayer. He will deal with man's relationship with God, himself and the people.

OIL MINISTER SAYS WAR HAS NOT AFFECTED OIL POLICY

GFO61925 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 6 May 81 p 19

[Interview granted to AL-QABAS correspondent Ridhwan Khawatimi by Iraqi Oil Minister Tayid 'Abd al-Karim in Rome--no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Can you give us a clear picture of the oil situation in Iraq and of the volume of the present production following the eruption of the Iraq-Iran war?

[Answer] Iraq is currently passing through its most exceptional stage since the beginning of the aggressive war that has been imposed by the Iranian regime. We hope to resume oil production as soon as Iraq's circumstances and capabilities permit, especially through the Iraqi-Turkish and Iraqi-Syrian lines.

[Question] Is the Iraqi-Syrian line working at full power?

[Answer] No, not completely.

[Question] How has the war affected Iraq's internal and external oil policy, and when will you resume pumping oil in the quantities you extracted prior to the eruption of the war?

[Answer] In fact, the aggressive Iranian war has not affected Iraq, especially with regard to our oil policy. It is based primarily on the adoption of a price policy that takes into consideration inflation rates in the Western countries in particular and the industrial states in general, as well as the rate at which the dollar declines. At the same time we are trying to correct our prices to compensate for the losses that have resulted in a huge reduction in oil revenues. As far as fluctuation in prices and inflation are concerned, our policies and plans are clear. However, we have reconsidered the possibility of reducing oil production. We have great production capacity today. However, the problem lies in marketing, bearing in mind that most of our oil is marketed via the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Furthermore, some of our loading installations in the south have been hit, and at this very moment circumstances do not permit us to market our oil through the Arabian Gulf route.

[Question] When do you expect to resume normal oil production?

[Answer] This depends on achieving a cease-fire which, in turn, depends on Iran's response and its return to logical thinking, wisdom and reality.

[Question] Has the Iraq-Iran war had any effect on Iraq's 5-year plan projects, and what is the fate of the European companies, particularly the Italian companies, that are currently working in Iraq and that provided large construction projects prior to the war?

[Answer] As I have mentioned, there has been no alteration in the size of development projects. However, there have been some changes in the locations of the projects, the method of implementation and the size of the size of the projects, [as published] because we have taken current and future circumstances into consideration. We have done this, because Iraq is responsible for a major role in the upcoming battle. The Iraq-Iran war has taught us many lessons and has given us experience in implementing projects, determining their size and insuring their protection.

Some delay has been caused by companies working on some projects located near the Iranian border. This was probably due to the intensity of the war in its early stages. However, there are other projects that are located far from the war zone, and nothing justifies abandoning them, especially now that the workers have realized that self-assurance has returned to Iraq.

The war we are fighting is within Iranian territory, not Iraqi territory. Most of the companies have returned to their working sites inside the country. We are very pleased with the role being played by the Italian companies except one, although its size is limited. We have been in touch with Italian officials, who have promised us that the company will soon return to its worksite with a full staff.

ADMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 328

JN061655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—Our armed forces have inflicted heavy losses on the Persian regime's forces, amounting to 159 killed and 9 infantry positions, 1 tank, 5 field guns, 11 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 6 observation posts and 7 ammunition stockpiles destroyed or captured. A communique issued today by the Armed Forces General Command said that our losses were 11 martyrs in all sectors. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 328 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our capable armed forces continued to pound the racist Persian enemy in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

- A. Our advance units pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Nowsud region, killing 19 and destroying 2 infantry positions and 2 vehicles.
- B. Five were killed and three infantry positions and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region. Our forces also discovered in the same region one intact TOW rocket launcher left behind in recent battles.
- C. A charlatan Khomeyni guard concentration was sighted near our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb region. Our forces hit it with various weapons, killing 15. Our forces also destroyed three infantry positions and one field gun in the same region.
- D. Five were killed and two vehicles, one carrying personnel, were destroyed in the Mimak region opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
- E. One observation post and one ammunition stockpile were destroyed in the Mehran region.
- F. One of our units clashed with an enemy infantry force supported by artillery in the Dezful region, hit it hard with all weapons and forced it to retreat after killing 57, wounding a large number and destroying 4 vehicles, 2 of which were laden with ammunition.
- G. Our units pounded enemy concentrations and positions in the Shush region, killing 24 and destroying 3 field guns, 4 observation posts, 1 ammunition stockpile and 1 vehicle.
- H. Enemy concentrations were sighted near our positions in Abadan. Our forces hit them hard with all weapons and forced them to flee after having sustained 34 dead and 1 tank, 1 field gun and 2 vehicles destroyed. One infantry position, one observation post and four ammunition stockpiles were destroyed in the same region.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 159 dead, a large number of wounded, 9 infantry positions, 1 tank, 5 field guns, 11 vehicles, 1 rocket launcher, 6 observation posts and 7 ammunition stockpiles destroyed or captured.

II. Our losses:

- A. In personnel: Eleven martyrs in all sectors.
- B. In equipment: One tank, one vehicle and one mortar were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 May 1981

BA'TH PARTY HAILS BIRTH OF AHVAZ LIBERATION FRONT

JN06134, Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)--The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has reiterated that the birth of the Arab Front for the Liberation of Ahvaz is bound to secure the basic requirements necessary for achieving definite victory in the historical battle against the racist Persian occupation. A statement, issued by the Palestine and Armed struggle office in the Ba'th Party National Command on the occasion of the unification of the Ahvaz revolutionary struggle forces and groups into the Arab Front for the Liberation of Ahvaz, said that the party proudly hails this revolutionary step and that the party's stand on this unity emanates from its firm and principled faith in the unity of the Arab masses' issues for the sake of liberating their usurped land, achieving their freedom, building their unity and making their future.

The statement said that the inception Ahvaz Arab Front is a real response to the Arab people's aspirations in Ahvaz to unify their ranks on their revolutionary struggle program and to marshal their military and organizational potential within the people's revolutionary tool expressing their will. The Ba'th Party asserted that the front is capable of developing the formulas and methods of the Ahvaz Arab people's struggle against the Khomeyni regime's oppression and racial discrimination, which is hostile to pan-Arab rights and to the other minorities in Iran.

The party said that deterring expansionist Persian aggression, seizing Iraq's national rights to its own land and waters and liberating the Ahvaz Arab masses are noble national and pan-Arab tasks associated with the concepts of honor, dignity and national and pan-Arab sovereignty. The party called on the Arab nation's masses and their revolutionary forces to support the revolutionary struggle of the Ahvaz masses and their militant front, the Arab Front for the Liberation of Ahvaz.

Front Member's Statement

JN041402 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] London, 4 May (INA)--A member of the Arab Front for the Liberation of Ahvaz has stated that, following the agreement of all the factions and organizations in Ahvaz to declare their organizational and military unity, the front will become the springboard for mobilizing the resources of the Ahvaz people and promoting their struggle to reach a decisive confrontation with the Iranian regime in order to liberate the Ahvaz territory and realize legitimate national rights. In a statement to the AL-'ARAB newspaper published here today, the front official said that the people of Ahvaz are a very ancient Arab people who migrated from the Arabian Peninsula and settled in Ahvaz before and after Islam. He reviewed what led to the occupation of Ahvaz and its annexation by Iranian force of arms. He said that the Arab population was deprived of political freedom, opportunity for an education and use of the Arabic language. The wealth of the country was plundered and the population was forced to desert its productive land. The official also said that the racist Iranian rulers let any Iranian soldier or policeman detain or kill any Arab citizen without question. Iranian security men are practicing terror, oppression and coercion against the Arabs.

The Ahvaz official denounced the treasonous and anti-national stands of certain Arab regimes and their hostility to the Ahvaz Arab people's struggle. The Iraq-Iran war, he said, has created new circumstances as the Iraqi Army, with cooperation of the Ahvaz Arab Front fighters, has liberated large areas of the Ahvaz territory. He praised the principled and noble stand of Iraq toward the just cause of the Arab people of Ahvaz.

Concluding his statement, the Ahvaz Arab Front official reiterated that Iranian oppression and terror will never diminish the Arabism of the Ahvaz people or quench the revolutionary flames of our fighting spirit. He said: We will continue our fight until our aims and liberation are achieved.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER SUPERPOWER ROLE IN LEBANON

JN070910 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 May 81 p 4

[Editorial: "More Absurdities"]

[Text] The direct entry of the United States and the Soviet Union into the Lebanese peace-making process is a mixed blessing, demonstrating yet again the world's meekness in the face of Israeli intemperance and exaggerated self-importance. The disconcerting aspect of Soviet-American involvement in the Syrian-Israeli confrontation taking place on Lebanese soil is that it raises and stakes and changes the nature of the essential point in dispute. What started out as an Israeli-Palestinian confrontation in southern Lebanon is being expanded into an issue that now revolves around Israel's presumed right to determine the kinds and quantities of Syrian defensive [previous word printed in italics] armaments in northeastern Lebanon [previous two words in italics]. The entire Lebanese landscape, in other words, has been transformed into a function of Israel's self-defined security requirements, based on effective control of the land of its Arab neighbours. For the Americans and Soviets now to step into the picture with their envoys will only cement this absurdity and institutionalise the Israeli penchant for deeper and deeper military involvement in the affairs of the region. Will Israel, and its subservient American paymasters, soon ask for Israeli control of the Lebanese mountaintops as the only means of assuring the "security" of a vague concept of political Zionism whose only clear element during the past 100 years has been its appetite for more Arab land and the destruction of more Arab communities? Will the absurdities never cease?

CAMPAIGN OVER ISRAELI CANAL PLAN 'EXPECTED'

JN040740 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] AR-RA'Y writes: Very soon Jordan is expected to launch a wide-scale diplomatic campaign on the international and Arab levels to place the international community before its responsibility vis-a-vis Israel's aggressive plan to open a canal linking the Mediterranean and Dead Seas. Needless to say, the plan's destructive dimensions are aimed against the Jordanian economy and the Arab nation's intrinsic power, dimensions to which His Majesty King Husayn alluded and against which he cautioned in his speech to the fourth Arab conference on natural resources in Amman.

The expected Jordanian move represents an invitation to all the advocates of peace and to those concerned with peace, particularly in our area, to play their role in preventing the implementation of the Israeli plan, a plan which entails a blatant defiance of Arab sovereignty and real dangers to peace and stability in the area and which, consequently, would expose the area to complications whose size would be difficult to predict and to control. Jordan, via its prime minister, cautioned before the National Consultative Council all the quarters that might get involved in supporting the Israeli plan, financially or by any other means. Jordan also cautioned that such an involvement would constitute participation in Israeli aggression against Jordan. Undoubtedly, this caution does not exclude any quarter--official or unofficial--participating in the plan.

All the Arabs are called upon to crystallize a clear-cut and specific concept to prevent the implementation of the canal project, including the use of the economic boycott weapon against those who might get involved in supporting the plan, regardless of their identity. The Arabs must make their determination to this end clear before the international community.

In conclusion, AR-RA'Y says: We hope that the United States, to which Israel looks as a source for financing and technical know-how, takes into consideration the cautions and dangers to which we have referred so that it will not get involved in matters harming its relations with the Arab nation and so that it will not exacerbate tension in the area more than any time before.

SECURITY SITUATION OVER NIGHT OF 6-7 MAY REPORTED

NC070744 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Explosions and shelling with various arms have not stopped along the contact lines in the capital and some parts of the southern suburb of Beirut although these abated after 0730 this morning. No casualties were reported so far. Explosions and firing are resounding in the commercial area, the Sodeco and Al-Barjawi areas up to At-Tayyunah.

The eastern quarters of the capital and the Lebanese Army positions were suddenly subjected to indiscriminate shelling. Between 2000 and 2200 last night 16 rocket shells suddenly fell on the Al-Ashrafiyah area. The shelling was then directed to the commercial and the Sodeco areas. At 0400 today a bomb exploded near the faculty of letters and the private education department building in the western sector of Beirut around the UNESCO area. The explosion wrecked the faculty library and damaged nearby buildings and cars.

Last night unidentified gunmen opened fire in Az-Zaydaniyah in west Beirut killing two persons. Elements of the Arab Liberation Front had blown up an office of the Syrian nationalists in Verdun Street.

In southern Lebanon a state of caution prevailed during the night. While Israeli gunboats were cruising in the territorial waters along the coast from Ad-Damur to Tyre, planes dropped flares over An-Nabatiyah, Sidon and some other parts of the area. However, no operation has been reported up to this morning.

Reports from the border indicate that Israeli tanks have taken up positions and that six artillery emplacements have been set up on the east-west border sector.

The Israeli television newscast last night stressed that the Soviet Union supports the presence of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. The Israeli television showed pictures of the large-scale maneuvers carried out by the Syrian tanks.

Last night, sniper fire and acts of terrorism were renewed against Zahlah. Bursts of machinegun fire were directed from the alien positions in Harqat toward Zahlah quarters and streets. Helicopters from Riyaq Airbase flew toward Al-Furzul, (Mahhula) and Sannin.

At 0800 today sniper fire was intensified from Harqat on Zahlah streets. The Red Cross and Caritas vehicles spent the night in Shtawrah pending the completion of Syrian formalities before entering Zahlah. Vehicles of the relief agency unloaded in Shtawrah and returned to Beirut.

Reports from northern Lebanon indicate that gunmen of the Al-Marada organization have blown up three homes in (Karm Sibbah) and others of the same organization blew up a house in Tula in the Zgharta district.

In Dayr Qanun An-Nahr in southern Lebanon and in Ansar in the An-Nabatiyah district, tension continues to prevail although the clashes stopped. Three persons belonging to the Communist Party, four persons of the Amal Movement and one of Fatah were killed in these clashes. Elements of Amal have subsequently set up roadblocks between Sidon and Tyre, particularly in As-Sarafand and 'Adlun. A number of persons on both sides were reportedly kidnapped. Efforts are being made for their release.

TOURISM MINISTER REPORTEDLY SHOT AT; REPORT DENIED

Driver Said Wounded

NC052037 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] At 1930 today gunmen opened fire on the car of Minister Marwan Hamadah in the Az-Zaydaniyah quarter in the western part of Beirut. The driver, ('Atif Hazilu), was hit; the minister drove the car himself in order to take the wounded driver to the American University hospital.

Source's Denial

NC052131 Beirut Deomstic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] An official source tonight denied a report by the private information media that Tourism Minister Marwan Hamadah has been shot at. Minister Hamadah had met tonight with chairman of the National Movement's Political Council and discussed political and security developments with him.

HADDAD VIEWS KHADDAM'S ACTIONS, HABIB'S VISIT

NC070827 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Commenting on two topical issues, commander of free Lebanon Major Haddad said:

1. What draws attention is the way in which 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has been holding his consultations at the presidential palace. He has been summoning whomever he wanted as if he were the actual president of the Lebanese republic. He has summoned functionaries at times and parliamentary blocs at others. Later, he might perhaps summon men of religion or the lawyers trade unions, butchers and shopkeepers. The purpose of all this is to make fools of the Lebanese and gain time to deceive the world's states at a time when the necks of the sons of Zahlah are still in the Syrian guillotine.

It is necessary here to admit the skill and cleverness of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who has been able to deceive the Lebanese politicians and make them obey his signals like goats, hoping that he would lead them to the green valleys--whereas he is actually leading them to the slaughterhouse.

We wonder, Major Haddad added, if an opponent can be fair if he has to consider a crime committed by himself. Had the persons consulted been aware of the game 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was playing, they would have refused to meet him before Damascus had issued a public 'Alawite order withdrawing its forces from Lebanon within a certain timelimit.

As for his excellency the president of the republic, Ilyas Sarkis, his excellency has publicly abandoned his powers this time in the interests of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. I do not know if the latter permits Sarkis to attend the current consultations.

2. Some wonder whether Syria really intends to confront Israel and wonder from what source this sudden courage springs--knowing that Syria has always heeded all Israeli orders and warnings. To those who are wondering, we say: Syria has not changed its habits and it does not dare to confront Israel. Syria is too cowardly to do so--but it is now carrying out a maneuver to attract the attention of the U.S. administration and improve relations with it so as to benefit from American bounties. Syria's plan has succeeded in this regard to a certain extent. The U.S. administration has shown an interest in the situation and it is dispatching Philip Habib to the area. It is positive that Syria will withdraw its missiles from Lebanon at the request of the U.S. envoy, but it will depict its action as a generous gift to the U.S. administration, so that the latter may bestow on Syria some of its sympathy, friendship and blessings, as well as approve of its role in Lebanon.

Major Haddad went on: We in turn welcome the U.S. envoy and ask him not to be deceived by the Syrian displays and hypocrisy. We also ask that he not content himself with merely asking Syria to withdraw its missiles from Lebanon, but ask for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all its invading forces from Lebanon and hand over the rule to the Lebanese.

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES 6 MAY

JN061648 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Georgiy Korniyenko, first deputy minister of the Soviet Foreign Affairs Ministry, arrived in Damascus at 1600 today on a 3-day official visit to Syria.

Korniyenko was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; 'Adnan Nashshabah, director of the Foreign Ministry Eastern Europe Department; the Soviet ambassador in Damascus; and embassy staff.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Korniyenko expressed happiness at visiting Syria. He said: This visit comes within the framework of consultations and exchange of viewpoints between friendly Syria and the Soviet Union. He added: I will meet with my colleagues in the Foreign Ministry to discuss various issues of interest to the two friendly countries.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KUWAITI AMIR

JN061357 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn, Kuwaiti minister of state for Cabinet affairs, at noon today. The Kuwaiti minister conveyed to the president the regards of the Kuwaiti amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The Kuwaiti minister also delivered to President al-Asad a message from the Kuwaiti amir within the framework of consultations and exchange of viewpoints between the two fraternal states on issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Faruq al-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Kandari, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

The Kuwaiti minister arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, and top Foreign Ministry officials.

[Damascus SANA at 1655 GMT on 6 May reported the departure of Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn for Kuwait]

DAMASCUS REPORTS HABIB DEPARTURE FOR MIDEAST

JN070626 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Washington--Philip Habib, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's special envoy, left Washington last night for London en route to Beirut, thus beginning his tour of several Middle East states.

Reports say that earlier yesterday Philip Habib met with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig and President Ronald Reagan.

ARAB AMBASSADORS BRIEFED ON LEBANON SITUATION

JN060736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Damascus--Assistant Foreign Minister Nasir Qaddur last night met with the ambassadors of Arab countries accredited to Damascus. He briefed them on the latest developments in the Arab region in general and the Lebanese arena in particular.

Qaddur explained the motive behind the repeated Israeli attacks against Lebanon and the Israeli provocations and threats, which are supported by the United States, to undermine the efforts to achieve national accord in fraternal Lebanon.

The meeting ended with an assertion that the resources and energies possessed by the Arab nation are capable of foiling the Zionist enemy's designs and preventing it from realizing its aggressive aims.

LEBANESE URGED TO CONFRONT ISRAELI THREATS

JN061541 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 May 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] It is notable that Syria's efforts to achieve accord among the Lebanese and to put this accord into actual implementation and application are accompanied by the escalation of the Zionist-imperialist campaign against Syria in a manner that has turned into a direct threat against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians. Although this arouses attention, it is at the same time not strange. What is strange is that some deliberately ignore this threat as if it either does not concern them at all or does not affect their presence and security and as if they were isolated from what is going on and safe from what might happen next.

Since the main subject in which the enemy statelet is trafficking is that of Lebanon and the Syrian presence in it through the Arab Deterrent Forces--a presence which came in fulfillment of the calls made by the Lebanese themselves for the sake of Lebanon and its people and in consolidation of its legitimate authority--the Lebanese themselves with all their groupings are concerned with the threat and the need to avert it. All the Lebanese, particularly those taken by the Zionist entity as a pretext or tool on whose behalf the enemy talks, are required to foil the enemy plan and prevent it from using their name, trafficking in it and using it as a pretext for making threats or for intervention in Lebanon against the Arab Deterrent Forces, which are protecting Lebanon. All the Lebanese, particularly those parties accused of dealing with the enemy, giving him a chance to interfere or those in whose name the enemy talks, are required to expedite the process of Lebanese accord and facilitate its implementation, considering it a national and pan-Arab requisite at this critical stage in the Arab region.

We find no reason for not achieving the Lebanese accord. We also find no reason to prevent those concerned from candidly announcing that they are innocent of the Zionist enemy's falsehoods and that they do not allow this enemy to speak on their behalf or at least to defend them, considering him an enemy and the source of danger and threats--and, more specifically, the only source of danger and threat.

In truth, what we demand from some Lebanese is the least that can be demanded from a brother, irrespective of some of the existing differences in viewpoints and concepts. Indeed, this is the least that can be demanded from a brother who is worthy of such a title. It is our duty to ask this brother--and we hope he will do this without being asked--to quickly settle any existing differences without any hesitation or conditions, thus responding to the requirements of the stage, averting the existing threat and blocking the road of the Zionist bargainers. If everyone agrees that the issue of dealing with the Zionist enemy is only an accusation, why then do those being accused not deny the accusation or denounce the whole issue in part and parcel? If the Zionist threat is directed against all the Lebanese and the Arabs, why then do all the Lebanese not participate, along with the Arabs, who are being represented by Syria--the Arab steadfastness state--in confronting this threat?

Thus, proceeding from the premise of its concern over Lebanon and the Arab issue, Syria is determined to confront the threat and the enemy schemes in Lebanon against the Arab issue. The Arabs in general, and the Lebanese in particular, have but one alternative: to support Syria in the confrontation of those schemes.

Syria has always offered generous sacrifices for the defense of the Arab issue. Today, however, Syria is prepared to offer even more for this issue.

Thus, Syria has made preparations for this issue and made clear and objective calculations, taking into consideration that the Arabs have no alternative but confrontation and that, in the shadow of such confrontation, the Lebanese have no alternative but accord. As for some Lebanese, their only alternative would be to correct their course, reconsider their calculations and get rid of the enemy's mandate, since this is the enemy of everyone: Arabs, Syrians, Lebanese, Muslims and Christians. Furthermore, even if some of these groups are fragmented, the enemy does not differentiate between them when making its threats.

'LOYAL' LEBANESE CALLED ON TO ACHIEVE ACCORD

JN070826 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "The Arabs' Syria Constitutes the Strength of the Struggle and the Armor of the Issue," the paper ATH-THAWRAH says: The fabrication of uproar and directing of the plotters' mouthpieces and organs toward waging an onslaught against Syria has become the obsession of both the old and new Camp David partners, particularly now that these partners have discovered that steadfast Syria's stand against and firm confrontation of the plot of capitulation and liquidation cannot be overcome and that this is a firm, strong and principled stand, a stand which has the initiative, since it reflects the Arab masses' conscience and will in continuing to confront aggression from the imperialist and Zionist powers and their tools.

The plotters' malicious and poisonous mouthpieces are under the illusion that their campaigns can deceive the Arab masses or divert them from their basic course: their determination to confront the aggression and their persistent efforts to secure the requirements for an Arab victory through bolstering the Steadfastness Front and its main base and strength--revolutionary Syria, which is determined to safeguard Arab rights and defend the Arab nation's honor, rights, territories, masses and the struggle issue.

Indeed, such a stand has become the embodiment of this stage, its significant events and the results these events could possibly lead to, thanks to Syria's pan-Arab role and revolutionary undertaking of the responsibilities and duties of struggle, however great these responsibilities and the sacrifices may be.

The paper adds: Thus, we see the imperialist and Zionist mouthpieces and their worn-out agent echoes directing their campaigns against Syria, its steadfastness, its vanguard pan-Arab role and confrontation of the most dangerous attack to which the Arab struggle can be subjected.

They want Syria to remain silent over Israel's aggression against Lebanon, since they view Syria's support for the Lebanese brothers against the Israeli aggression as a problem. However, they do not consider Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon and its shelling of the south's cities, villages and Palestinian camps as problems. Nor is Israel's occupation of part of Lebanese territory--the so-called border strip--considered a problem.

In conclusion, the paper says: Lebanon is suffering from Israel's present and repeated aggression and the plots of Israel and the Camp David partners, whose purpose is to destroy and fragment Lebanon prior to dividing it up and making it a mouthful to be easily swallowed by the Zionist enemy.

It is this truth, which the Arab citizen in general and the Lebanese citizen in particular are aware of, that makes it incumbent on the loyal people in Lebanon to direct their efforts toward blocking the road to the Zionist enemy--the historical enemy of the Lebanese people and Arab nation--through intensifying efforts to achieve national accord and entrench stability, thus safeguarding Lebanon's unity and Arabism. Thus, all the efforts and guns will be geared for the fateful confrontation between the Arab nation and the Zionist colonialist enemy in order to liberate the territory, recapture the rights and put a stop to the Zionist policy of aggression and expansionism.

BEGIN SAYS ISRAEL CANNOT ALLOW MISSILES TO REMAIN

TA061246 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 May 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that the problem of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon will be solved either peacefully or in other ways but, in his opinion, it will be a miracle if the solution is found in an agreement between Israel and Syria.

In an interview to be broadcast tomorrow over Jerusalem radio, Mr Begin said Israel will not be able to allow those missiles to remain in Lebanon and will do what it has to do, but Israel does not want war with Syria and Syria also has no reason to want war. Therefore a general confrontation is not to be expected. Mr Begin explained that Israel must carry out flights over Lebanon in order to see the terrorists' plots against Israel through aerial photographs. He said the United States was not demanding any recompense from Israel for the removal of the missiles, such as cutting down flights in Lebanese airspace.

BEGIN DELIVERS INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS TO NATION

TA061220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 6 May 81

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Menahem Begin on occasion of Independence Day]

[Excerpt] Go out and see that in the year that has past since Misgav 'Am there has not been one terrorist infiltration into our country. It is true that, from time to time, something happens. When billions of dollars are about, then you should know that the terrorist organization's budget is \$1 billion. Well, you can certainly buy arms with this, also a glider, also a balloon, and it is obvious that the enormous communist power, the Soviet Union, is supplying cannons and tanks and missiles and, especially, those Katyushas on trucks--40 missiles at once, then something sometimes happens. But there has not been an infiltration for a year because we have stopped it and we are no longer using retaliatory action. We do not wait until they murder men, women and children and afterward go, as it were, to take revenge. What revenge? We do not need it. It will not bring the slaughtered back to life. We do need to defend our people so that they will live, and therefore we go out to their bases and there we hit them, and sometimes three times in a day, and this is how we will continue.

I wanted to tell you something else: we have won, praise the Lord that we have won. This nation, which only 40 years ago was defenseless, without strength, oppressed, persecuted horribly, helpless, abandoned, solitary, this nation not only knows now how to defend itself. It also knows how to defend another people whose life and existence are in danger--I mean the Christians in Lebanon. And our hand is still extended. And we will not permit them to be abandoned. Let nobody say of us that we have no moral commitment. We do, even if we did not have to give it we would do so--this moral commitment. We are Jews. We are Zionists. Nothing human is alien to us. We learned this from Herzl, we learned this from Jabotinsky. We learned this from our founding fathers and we will maintain this.

We will not abandon those in danger. We will not abandon them. We will defend them. In fact, 1 week ago we saved them. I want the citizens of Israel to know that about 10 days ago the Christians in northern Lebanon stood on the brink of being broken. Not the fighters: the civilian population. They could no longer bear the shelling of the heavy cannons, with a range of 40 km, the Soviet Union is supplying to the Syrian Army; those Katyushas, the 40 launchers on one truck. They could no longer bear that.

It is no wonder. After all, we are talking about mothers and small children. And we, by means of our action, implemented with good sense--we really saved them and we know this from the primary sources. We are blessed that we have gained this. We know how both to defend ourselves and how to extend help to another people and we are the only ones who are helping them.

English Message

TA061849 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 May 81

[Independence Day message by Prime Minister Menahem Begin--recorded]

[Text] This is a very great day. We must remember what we were only 33 or 35 years ago. Thirty-five or 36 years ago we were a people trampled underfoot, humiliated, persecuted, physically destroyed and completely abandoned by both the East and the West, and nobody came to our rescue when a terrified people was methodically for 6 years destroyed, including 1.5 million children.

Today we are strong. We have an army which, may I say, is not the worst in the world--some say that it is the best in the world. I am no chauvinist; therefore, perhaps I will say it is one of the best in the world. We can defend our people, our women, our children, effectively against any enemy or against any combination of enemies, and be sure of victory. We, of course, do not want war. We hate bloodshed and we hate war. Therefore, we gave so great sacrifices for the peace treaty with Egypt. But, if we should be attacked by anybody, he will be defeated.

But not only we can defend ourselves, thanks God. We, at this time of the 33d anniversary of the proclamation of our independence, are capable of defending another people who is in danger of being annihilated. I refer to the Christians in the Lebanese country. Nobody came to their rescue, nobody. France left them in the (?lurch) although they--the Frenchmen--used the Maronites in the 19th century for their own colonialist or imperialist purposes, for scores of years.

Well, Monsieur Giscard d'Estaing sent a few doctors and some medicaments--very nice--and then he made a suggestion that, perhaps, French troops will come there as an international force; he immediately abandoned the idea. In any case, nobody came to help the Christians. The only country and people who--I may say so today--saved the Christians from the danger of complete destruction is the Jewish state, Israel. I say so with real pride, as a Jew and as a citizen of Israel.

And now, I can wish our people in Israel and the Jewish people throughout the world: hag shame'ah [happy holiday], rejoice in this great day, rejoice my friends. Our people, traditionally, can rejoice. Rejoicing is one of our great abilities, even under the most difficult conditions. So, what I wish you, my dear friends and brethren all over the world and especially in our own land: rejoice in this great Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Independence Day. We may have still difficulties in the future; we shall overcome them. But there will also be great days of rejoicing, of achievements. God bless you all.

SHAMIR SAYS SECURITY WAR BEING WAGED IN LEBANON

TA051146 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 May 81 p 1

[By Asher Kizner]

[Text] "Israel's wars had better be conducted in Lebanon rather than in Israel itself. In Lebanon we are fighting Israel's security war," Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated last night.

The minister added that in an era in which long-range arms are used, Israel's security cannot be maintained "without jumping over the fence." The minister explained that all the events in the Middle East had an impact on the state's security and that Israel's security needs forced it to be active rather than passive.

Speaking at a rally of Likud activists in Herzliyya, the minister also said that the reasons Egypt had stopped the negotiations on autonomy were "mere excuses." Shamir said that Egypt could not sign an autonomy agreement based on the Camp David accords because, in his opinion, such an agreement would not allow them to turn the autonomy into a Palestinian state and because it could not sign an agreement that would provide less than that. The foreign minister said that Israel was ready to resume the negotiations at any time and that the establishment of the autonomy would not prevent Israel from demanding sovereignty "over the entire Eretz Yisra'el" within a few years because, in his opinion, this did not contradict the Camp David accords.

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

TA061057 Jerusalem POST in English 6 May 81 p 5

[Report by political correspondent Mark Segal on interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir; date and place not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is busier than ever, having to fit his extra duties as Likud election campaign chairman on top of his packed agenda at the Foreign Ministry.

As usual with an Israeli foreign minister, Shamir has to do a balancing act with a series of simultaneous crises breaking over his head. Like most of his Labor predecessors, the Likud's foreign minister also has a prime minister who takes intense interest in foreign affairs.

Questioned about the Lebanese crisis, the minister told the Jerusalem POST that the Cabinet would have to consider Israel's next moves in the light of the latest message from President Reagan. The Americans were doing their utmost to achieve a diplomatic solution to the missile crisis, lest it get out of hand and lead to a military confrontation with unforeseen results.

However, strenuous U.S. efforts have borne no fruit so far, "largely because Washington has little influence in Damascus," he pointed out. American requests that Moscow use its good offices to cool the situation had had no effect either.

"The Syrians show no desire to revert to the status quo ante in Lebanon and to cease their bid to take over all of Lebanon," he said, adding that the past few days' lull was a good portent, although the situation was still in the balance.

The minister reiterated Israel's political stand on Lebanon: prevent Syrian domination and not tolerate the liquidation of the Christian presence. It is a clearcut Israeli interest, and not just a moral obligation to stop the annihilation of an entity that does not totally identify with Syrian pan-Arabist designs. Israel is fighting for its security in Lebanon.

Asked whether there exists a final deadline for the removal of the Syrian missiles from Lebanon, the foreign minister replied that it was not a matter of counting days.

The United States had asked for time to get the missiles shifted by diplomatic means, and Israel would have to see whether they would avail. Shamir was quite forthcoming in pointing out that the latest U.S. messages had clearly expressed the view that Syria had broken the status quo in Lebanon, while asking for more time to let diplomacy work.

The foreign minister rejected out of hand the West German Foreign Ministry's argument that the Israeli reaction to Chancellor Schmidt's sharp pro-Arab shift was "election propaganda."

Shamir declared that there had been reports for some time of Schmidt's pro-Arab leanings, but hitherto he and his spokesman had firmly denied them. "When I met the chancellor in Bonn he reassured me of his friendship and complained that the media had wilfully distorted his words," Shamir reported, adding: "For once he has come out in the open on German TV, saying what he had hitherto denied."

This was an extremely grave matter and Israel would have reacted even if Schmidt's interview had taken place a week after the Knesset elections.

Each sentence in the chancellor's interview caused outrage: "He never once mentioned German responsibility towards the Jewish state, because he is seeking to evade German guilt for what happened to European Jewry. It was inconceivable that Schmidt was unaware that Arab affinity for Germany was rooted in its evil past, when so many Arabs rejoiced over the Holocaust.

"I am certain he felt this attitude among the Saudis," Shamir continued, angry at the way the German leader had pulled out of his sleeve "the foolish claim about pushing the PLO into the arms of the Soviets, as if they haven't been a Soviet puppet all along. He doesn't see that all those Arab elements opposing peace with Israel will always opt for the Soviets rather than the democratic West. Israel is close to the West because of our common belief in democracy, while so many Arab states are drawn to the Soviet bloc by its totalitarian regime."

Moreover, the claim that support for Israel would push the Arabs into communist arms had been disproved many times already, he said, noting that Egypt had abandoned its Soviet link before turning westwards and making peace with Israel, while Saudi Arabia had never looked to Moscow.

The minister showed impatience with the way Schmidt had trotted out Arab propaganda clichés like: "The Jews should be content with their state which they got in compensation for the Holocaust; now we have to compensate the Arabs." "What it means in effect," Shamir said, "is that Germany has to help those who wish to complete the Nazis' unfinished work." He found even more intolerable the way Schmidt had so patronisingly "hoped that Israel would not shorten its national life."

The minister said that Schmidt's hostile attitude towards Israel was a combination of personal emotions and cold political tactics. Hence Israel had reacted as it had, lest silence be wrongly interpreted. Moreover, it wished to arouse those elements in the German people who disagreed with Schmidt's pro-Arab appeasement at Israel's expense.

When the foreign minister had been in Bonn, he had only heard denials from all sides, including Schmidt, of any such pro-Arab shift. Shamir is sure that Schmidt said even more to his hosts during his Saudi visit; once back home, although he held up the sale of German tanks to the Saudis, he plunged into his pro-Arab propaganda drive.

While the intense competition of German, French and British arms salesmen can be seen to have influenced European policy, Shamir is also aware of the extent to which the Europeans have allowed themselves to be subject to Arab blackmail.

Referring to Britain's Lord Carrington and his plans to meet terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat as part of the European initiative, Shamir said that Arabist views familiar from pre-1948 Whitehall were now prevailing at the Foreign Office. "I hear that Carrington is aiming at getting the Nobel Peace Prize. Well I don't mind him getting half the prize for his efforts in Zimbabwe, but he should leave the Middle East alone."

Turning to the projected AWACS deal between Washington and the Saudis, Shamir said that in America, Israel had true friends, "unlike Europe, where one might just as easily talk to the wall as budge President Giscard d'Estaing and Schmidt. In friendly America, public opinion does have influence and so far the media have been universal in opposing the AWACS deal," he remarked. While the administration had only suspended the deal, there is strong opposition in Congress. Israel can only try to do its best to alter Washington's attitude.

Asked whether he had second thoughts about Israel's initially muted reaction, Shamir explained that at the time they had thought the supply of F-15's "was a one-time decision" --but subsequent revelations indicated it was part of an overall policy.

Israel for its part wishes to persuade America that it is not in its own true interest to provide such sophisticated weaponry to the Saudis, which the Reagan administration sees in the context of buttressing anti-Soviet forces.

Shamir also spoke of "certain contradictions between the soothing music reaching Jerusalem from Washington and what we read between the lines." On the one hand, so many arms are in the pipeline for Riyadh, while "decidedly friendly signals" have been made to Jerusalem, such as the real change in attitude towards Israeli defence exports and in the U.S. line at the UN.

Secretary of State Haig had told the Senate hearings before his confirmation that his policy would be based on continuity, fidelity to basic principles and a balanced approach. The dilemma facing Israel is to find the balance between Washington's special relationship with Jerusalem and its special relationship with Riyadh, Shamir declared.

When we referred to the stalled autonomy talks, the foreign minister expressed an Independence Day wish for better relations with Egypt and our other Arab neighbors. In this context he said that had the Camp David talks produced a bilateral agreement with Egypt--"of peace in exchange for Sinai"--it would have been acceptable.

However, Israel had wished to offer an additional element to Egypt and so introduced the autonomy scheme. He does not doubt that everything will be done to push forward the autonomy talks--"however, if nothing budges, we will stay as we are," he said drily.

What if the impasse continues even after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai?

"We have a range of ways in which to react, but there's no need to go into detail now," he declared, adding that he thought peace would hold. Israel had taken a big risk in accepting the peace treaty and had sacrificed much for it. Sepaking as an MK who had abstained in the Knesset vote on the issue, Shamir recalled that "the majority was willing to make these sacrifices. Only the future will show us whether they were worthwhile."

Asked to comment on the implications of Premier Begin's announcement that he intends to serve out a full four-year term if reelected, Shamir dwelt on how Begin's announcement had earned a universal welcome in the Likud. It was meant to show critics that when Begin was asking for a further four-year mandate he did not intend stepping down in mid-term, "health permitting."

Shamir attributed the Likud's recovery in the polls to the united front recently shown by the government, with the media no longer giving weekly accounts of Cabinet actions. The Likud, he said, has the best prospect of forming the next government.

He denied being upset at the parachuting of Ya'akov Meridor to the No. 2 place on the list, with him dropping to No. 3. "We have no numbers," he said, scoffing at "the way the press blow up such stories."

Would he only be ready to serve as foreign minister if Begin formed the next Cabinet?

I have never pushed myself into any position and I don't intend changing," came the quick reply.

Given the likelihood of great difficulties in forming a viable government in July, would he favour a grand coalition? Shamir took to the idea with alacrity, declaring he had always favoured it. However, he hedged his reply with the question of whether it could work. "Especially as at present, we do not know what the Labor Alignment stands for in foreign affairs. Eban, Rabin and Hadar all speak with varying and often opposing voices," the Likud's foreign spokesman said.

Why should people vote for the Likud? "Because the Likud is capable of forming a government that can best serve Israel's security and political aims. We have only just started doing our job. We want a further mandate to complete what we began and do it better still.

REPORT ON ARTILLERY MOVE INTO LEBANON DENIED

TA070513 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0503 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Last night Israeli sources denied reports that Israel had introduced six batteries of heavy cannons into the eastern sector of the Christian enclave in southern Lebanon. The report was given by official sources in Beirut to the AP correspondent.

SYRIA EXPECTED TO DEMAND LEBANON BOMBING HALT

TA061949 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1848 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] It has become clear this evening that immediately after the Independence Day holiday Israel will be confronted with a Syrian demand to commit itself to stop the bombings initiated by the Israeli Air Force in Lebanon as a condition for removing the missiles from the Al-Biqa' valley.

On the eve of the arrival of Philip Habib tomorrow, the Syrians rushed to assure political backing for their position. The Soviet Union has apparently pledged support for their argument; the Lebanese Muslim Prime Minister, Shafiq al-Wazzan, has also adopted it and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has apparently mustered Saudi support for it in his tour of the Persian Gulf capitals. The Christian leaders in Lebanon are not satisfied with the Syrian approach but there is not much they can do about it. President Ilyas Sarkis has been mumbling his reservations and Phalangist leader Pierre al-Jumayyil this evening drew a sad analogy between the introduction of the missiles into the Zahlah area and the introduction of the Soviet missiles into Cuba.

The logic of the Syrian position is evident: If they achieve a drop in Israel's activities against the terrorists in Lebanon, the removal of the missiles will not be regarded as a capitulation but, on the contrary, it will be viewed as willingness on the part of Syria to endanger themselves for the sake of the Palestinians. If Israel rejects this condition the Syrians will claim that they cannot be urged to abandon the Lebanese skies to Israeli attacks.

It is hard to foresee how far President al-Asad will adhere to his position during the talks. However, there is no doubt that his stubbornness is related to the things the Soviet envoy has told him.

As the scenario for this plan, Syria today carried out a small show of muscles: against reports that Israeli Air Force planes also today continued to overfly Beirut and even flew undisruptedly over the missile batteries in the Al-Biqa' valley, a mechanized division conducted a large maneuver with live fire following a long interval during which the Syrian Army stopped conducting such spectacular maneuvers.

The tone used by the Syrian media continues to be firm and harsh. The new warnings issued by Prime Minister Menahem Begin have been categorically rejected and they have been warning Israel that if it decides to act, Syria will know how to react with the support of its friends.

USSR SUPPORTS SYRIA IN LEBANON MISSILE ISSUE

TA061914 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1855 GMT 6 May 81

[Excerpt] The issue of Lebanon: The Soviet Union this evening for the first time gave its backing officially to Syria. Moscow radio, in its broadcasts in Arabic, expressed support for the introduction of missiles in the Al-Biqa' valley. Our monitor, Mikha'el Gurdus, reports that the broadcast said that the missiles are not a subject that can be discussed, since Syria has to act in Lebanon to curb Israeli activity.

LABOR PARTY DECIDES ON KNESSET CANDIDATES

TA051029 Jerusalem POST in English 5 May 81 pp 1, 12

[By political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv--Weeks of tension and conflict in the Labor Party came to an end yesterday when Party Chairman Shim'on Peres read off the names of Labor's slate of Knesset candidates.

There were few surprises and few new faces, especially among the first dozen on the list. However, MK Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino emerged as the party's new star, when she was named to the No. 2 slot on the list, demoting MK Abba Eban to third place.

Almozlino is said to have won her prestigious position due to a number of factors. Being Iraqi born, she is a natural representative of oriental Jews, and it is also thought that she might attract women's votes. Moreover, she is an avowed hawk and party insiders say this would counter the dovish image of the party, which had become particularly pronounced after Peres had named his shadow cabinet. Finally, she had emerged as the most popular of the 10 veteran Labor MK's recently seeking re-election.

Eban, who had earlier threatened not to run if given less than second billing, was finally persuaded to yield his spot. Party insiders say he would not have done so for a man, but agreed to a gentlemanly gesture towards a woman. In the 1977 list, Almozlino was in the eighth slot.

Peres' arch rival, Yitzhaq Rabin, appears in the fourth slot, and the fact that he was placed so high up is seen as an attempt to compensate him and mollify his supporters for his exclusion from the shadow cabinet. The Rabin camp on the whole emerged satisfied.

Peres sought to repeat his party convention peace-making overture to Rabin, when he singled him out for praise yesterday, lauding Rabin's "constructive contribution" in the party nominations committee deliberations. However, as the Central Committee members applauded Peres' words, Rabin sat sullenly with his arms crossed over his chest.

MAPAM representatives begin making their appearance on the Alignment list in the fifth slot, after Rabin. That place goes to Victor Shemtov, and from that point on every seventh slot is for MAPAM. The list read off by Peres yesterday included only Laborites, all of whom were well aware that they would be moved further down the Alignment slate and would be placed in lower slots than on the Labor list.

Another factor which might well push many on the Labor slate down is the fact that room must still be found for the first ever Arab Labor candidate, Hamad (Khalayla) of Sakhnin, who threatened to boycott the list yesterday, when no safe slot was allotted him. Finally the Central Committee agreed to try again and give him a better placing on the list. He demands a higher slot than that to be given MAPAM's Arab candidate, Muhammad Wattad.

Many groups in the party emerged disappointed yesterday, especially members of the young guard, whose secretary Ha'im Ramon was put in Labor's 42nd slot.

In an attempt to soothe tempers last night, Peres suggested that Labor propose legislation similar to that of Norway's whereby all ministers, save the prime minister and his deputy, would be obliged to resign from membership in the house, making way for those next on the list. If Labor forms the next government, Peres expects this to take effect two months after the next coalition is formed. He estimated that this would free another seven seats on the Labor benches.

The list itself, the proposal to make room for (Khalayla) and the idea of the Norwegian-type law, were all approved by a large majority in an open committee vote.

Six MK's will not reappear on the Labor list. Eliyahu Moyal dropped out of the running last month and the two Shinuy defectors to Labor, Me'ir 'Amit and David Golomb, announced yesterday that they also will not stand as Knesset candidates. Ze'ev Katz dropped out for health reasons and Ester Herlitz was not named to a realistic slot. 'Amos Hadar will become head of the Moshav Movement, while the movement's present leader, Arye Nehamqin, will run for the Knesset.

Among the few new faces in top Labor slots will be Shikun 'Ovdim [Histadrut's construction company] Director-General Rafi Edri, Na'amat [Histadrut women's organization] Secretary General Na'va Arad and former Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur.

Some familiar faces who will not be featured in realistic places on the list are Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek, shadow finance minister Ha'im Ben-Shahar, former Justice Minister Ha'im Zadoq, former Agriculture Minister Aharon Uzan, former Education Minister Aharon Yadlin, former UN Ambassador Yosef Teqo'ah, former Ambassador to Paris and Bonn Asher Ben-Natan, and former U.S. Ambassador Simha Dinitz. Many of them will probably either win ministerial or top executive posts if Labor forms the next government.

The list as read off by Peres yesterday was as follows: 1) Shim'on Peres, 2) Shoshana Arbeli-Almozlino, 3) Abba Eban, 4) Yitzhaq Rabin, 5) Ha'im Bar-Lev, 6) Rafi Edri, 7) Moshe Shahal, 8) Yeruham Meshel, 9) Na'va Arad, 10) Mordekhay Gur, 11) Gad Ya'aqobi, 12) Eliyahu Speiser, 13) 'Uzi Bar'am, 14) Arye Nehamqin, 15) Musa Harif, 16) Dani Rosolio, 17) Shlomo Hilel, 18) Ora Namir, 19) Ha'im Herzog, 20) Rabbi Menahem Hakohen, 21) 'Adi Amoray, 22) Yosi Sarid, 23) Jacques Amir, 24) Aharon Har'el, 25) Yehezqel Zakay, 26) Avraham Katz-'oz, 27) Ya'aqov Tzur, 28) Mikha'el Harish, 29) Dov Ben-Me'ir, 30) Shevah Weiss, 31) Ya'aqov Gil, 32) Naftali Blumenthal, 33) Tamar Eshel, 34) Yehuda Hashay, 35) Mikha'el Bar-Zohar, 36) Uri Sabag, 37) Rafi Suissa of Mazkeret Batya, 38) Aharon Nahmias, 39) Ra'anan Na'im, 40) 'Edna Soloder, 41) Nahman Raz, 42) Ha'im Ramon, 43) 'Amiram Sivan, 44) Avraham Shohat, 45) Eliyahu Nawi, 46) Uri Agmi, 50) 'Amos 'Aran, 51) Uri 'Amit, 52) Menahem Sa'adon, 53) Yitzhaq Haziza, 54) Beni Efrat, 55) Prof David Libay, 56) Prof Ze'ev Sternhall, 57) Yosef Simhi, 58) Pinhas Eilon, 59) Yosef Hurvitz, 60) Rafi Blau, 61) David Sando, and 62) Yehi'el Leqet.

LIBYAOFFICIAL'S COMMENT ON U.S. DECISION CITED

JN070930 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 May (QNA)--In a Washington dispatch today the Abu Dhabi paper AL-WAHDAH cites Mr 'Ali al-Hudayri, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Washington, as saying that his country will respond to the U.S. decision to expel the Libyan diplomatic mission from Washington. He pointed out that suspension of oil is only one of various weapons with which the United States or any other country can be confronted. He added that closure of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli is a possibility.

Al-Hudayri affirmed that U.S. interests in Libya surpass Libyan interests in Washington.

On the U.S. administration's accusing Libya of supporting terrorism, he said that this administration's stands are based on unsound foundations, since it cannot distinguish between terrorism, which we denounce, and the liberation movements, which we support.

Twelve percent of the U.S. oil supply is imported from Libya.

AL-QABAS INTERVIEWS JALLUD ON CHAD, OTHER TOPICS

GF061150 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 5 May 81 p 20

[Interview granted to correspondent Salih Al-Khuraybi by Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud in Tripoli--no date given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The dominant impression outside Libya is that the Libyan revolution's stands are controversial, Libyan policy is embarrassing and Libya does not adhere to international norms. What is your reply?

[Answer] The Libyan revolution is massive. Therefore, it is natural that in its march it collides with traditional regimes because it has chosen alliance with the masses, not with regimes. As for adherence to international norms, we, as revolutionaries, have better morals than other politicians because adherence is a basic principle in revolutionary thinking.

We have even outstripped Marxist thinking of the 19th century--which is triggering most of the world's revolutions nowadays--and have proposed the masses' thinking instead.

We, in Libya, differ from traditional regimes and traditional revolutions because we understand peoples better and peoples also understand us better. As for adherence to norms and commitment to principle, we are more principled and more adherent than others.

We, as a revolutionary power, believe we are the power of the future. I do not believe any thinker or philosopher can say--at least theoretically--that democracy is better than replacement of the ruler by the people.

[Question] Western parties make another charge: Libya is trying to enflame Africa.

[Answer] To do what?

[Question] To enflame Africa and spread revolution in it. Egypt, Sudan and Morocco are charging you with that. Niger and Mali are talking about Libyan plots to trigger sedition in them. Ghana, Gambia and Senegal are charging you with direct interference in their internal affairs and with forming a Libyan force for this purpose.

[Answer] As for Sudan and Egypt, this charge is no more than mere blackmail to receive arms and aid from the United States. This trick has succeeded to a great extent, particularly after Reagan's recent statements and the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force to confront revolutions in Africa. The Jamahiriyyah may make that charge against Egypt and Sudan.

An example of this is when the Jamahiriyah intervened in Chad at the request of the legitimate government and quelled the insurgency there. It called for cooperation among African countries to strengthen peace. We sent cables to that effect to all the leaders. Numayri replied: "No, the war has started," and sent us a cable to this effect.

The principal threat the regimes of those countries face comes from their peoples and not from us. We do not export revolution. Nevertheless, genuine thinking and rule by the people have become widespread--from Nicaragua to Iran.

[Question] Yet these countries are talking about direct Libyan intervention in their affairs and about Libyan financing of seditious movements in them.

[Answer] What if I tell you that the opposite is true, that we have helped the regimes of those countries to survive and have provided personal security for their leaders? Examples are what we did for Numayri when his regime was subject to a coup attempt and the economic and military aid we offered Niger after Kountche's coup. As for other countries, we aided them, supplied them with oil, opened our borders to thousands of laborers, concluded many agreements with them, built schools, mosques, houses for them, helped them establish agricultural networks and other similar kinds of aid. Our intervention in Chad to extinguish the fire raging there and to return life to normal should have been met with gratitude from the countries mentioned because the Chad war was likely to expand and spread. Which African country is free from opponents and rebels? If the rebellion in Chad had succeeded, it would be a serious case for Africa.

[Question] Major, you talk about extinguishing the Chad fire and returning life to normal in Ndjamena. Does this not mean the Libyan forces should withdraw before they become occupying forces?

[Answer] In fact, we have declared our intention to withdraw. We look forward to the day when foreign threats to that afflicted country end and when the legitimate government will confirm itself. However, so long as foreign threats exist and the legitimate government will confirm itself, establish a national army and enforce security, our responsibility remains.

Libya is not an expansionist country, nor is it an imperialist power. Rather, it is a liberation power having one goal: to end the rebellion and see the Chadian people able to exercise their own will. When that is achieved, we will not linger 1 day longer in Chad.

[Question] Major, you are accused of trying to introduce nuclear weapons into the region in collusion with some parties like Pakistan. What is your reply?

[Answer] We have neither the intension nor the resources to produce a nuclear bomb. This kind of uproar and deception are practiced against us by imperialist circles. Nevertheless, Libya will not allow itself to lag behind the technology of the year 2000 or loiter in absorbing new energy sources, whether solar or nuclear. We will try to use energy to desalinate seawater, for example, and provide water to reclaim deserts, particularly since our energy resources will run out one day. Hence, we will be forced to resort to nuclear energy one day. Some circles do not want us to enter this area. They want us to remain backward, despite the fact that they know well that we will use energy for peaceful purposes and that Libya is among the countries that have signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Agreement. Yet they insist on making an uproar.

[Question] Brother 'Abd as-Salam, Libya has offered air support to protect Lebanese airspace. How serious is this offer, and will Libya be able to bear the accompanying escalation?

[Answer] For us, it is an issue of bearing responsibility. Ultimately, no one can prevent us from dying in defense of our honor. Guarantees on this issue are another issue, but no one can prevent us from dying while resisting. Our offer to Lebanon is pending. In this issue, geography does not have any significance.

We alone have stood with the Lebanese people in helping them to preserve their national unity and the Palestinian resistance. No one except the Libyan foreign minister was at the scene of the fighting for 58 days and was exposed to death 14 times. I was in Lebanon, not on my own behalf, but on behalf of the Libyan revolution. However, other foreign ministers remained in Damascus. We were sending arms despite the siege on Sidon and Tyre. You know the story of the ship that was attacked in Sidon. We are presently offering advanced weapons to the Palestinian revolution and other weapons to the Lebanese National Movement.

[Question] As for the efforts to achieve a merger between Syria and Libya, it has been said that the reason Libya called for this merger is its desire to see Syrian troops stationed on the Libyan-Egyptian border. Were you considering this when merger talks began?

[Answer] Never. We are able to defend our land. Our people are armed, and our army has advanced weapons. This army has achieved a major victory in Chad. It has been fighting in an area stretching for thousands of kilometers. It has succeeded in turning a regular war into a guerrilla war, which is the most difficult kind of war. For Libya, a merger is something sacred, and we are trying to achieve it while we are strong and without having to resort to maneuvers. We proposed the motto "Merger for combat to help Syria." Syria's position at that stage of the merger negotiations was similar to the situation when it merged with Egypt in 1958. Our merger with Syria is a combat merger to aid Syria. It is a merger through which the two countries and peoples will mobilize their energies and turn steadfastness into resistance. It will lead the Arab uprising and will mark the beginning of the strategic attack against imperialism, which has returned to the Arab nation in the form of the Rapid Deployment Force and foreign bases in Egypt, Somalia and Sudan.

[Question] How far has the merger progressed?

[Answer] The issue of the merger is serious. We do not want it to be superficial or demagogic. Rather, we want it to be ideologically firm--a unity of the masses. Currently, there are two ideologically contradictory regimes in Syria and Libya. There must be a firm basis for the merger. Syria has offered proposals for the merger, and we have offered ours. We have decided to form a committee to study the proposals. We want it to be a real and firm unity. The merger has been announced and is considered a finished subject. Nevertheless, the unity issue is very serious and needs guarantees. Therefore, there is a need to answer all questions so it will be a genuine unity. For example, the Syrian regime is republican, and our regime is a popular one. Economic differences and other real issues need to be examined. We are determined to surmount all obstacles, since the resolution on unity has been ratified by the Libyan people's congresses and by the Syrian leadership and People's Assembly.

[Question] Regarding Mauritania, is it true that Libya warned Mauritania of the coup beforehand, enabling the Mauritanian government to foil the coup?

[Answer] Yes, our intelligence service is competent. We knew of the coup before it took place.

[Question] Did you relay this information to Mauritania?

[Answer] Yes, our intelligence service is competent. There are sizeable Muslim minorities in all African countries. These minorities--as well as the nationalist forces, students and workers--supply us with information.

[Question] Let us go back to the time of Haydala's coup against Ould Salek. Did Haydala enjoy any Libyan support in his coup?

[Answer] No, but we invited Ould Daddah twice to visit us. We advised him to withdraw from the war because the Mauritanian Army felt that it was being led into a war merely to satisfy the wishes of the king of Morocco, a war from which it had nothing to gain.

Therefore, we advised Mokhtar Ould Daddah to withdraw from the war. If Morocco had refused to accept the withdrawal, Libya and Algeria would have been prepared to come to Mauritania's aid--particularly as the war was impeding national development.

[Question] Was Ould Salek's coup against Ould Daddah motivated only by his belief in the need to withdraw from the war?

[Answer] I believe so. The first thing he did when he came to power was to withdraw from the war.

[Question] With regard to U.S.-Libyan relations, what was the U.S. reply to Libya's invitation to reopen the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli?

[Answer] We have not invited the Americans to reopen their embassy in Libya.

[Question] There is a statement by Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi on this matter.

[Answer] The purpose was to demonstrate that the United States is persisting in its hostility toward the Libyan people. We are not eager to resume relations with the United States.

[Question] How would you describe the present state of Libyan-U.S. relations?

[Answer] Relations of hostility on the part of one side--the U.S. side.

[Question] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has accused Libya of helping the Soviet Union to become a Mediterranean power. What is your view?

[Answer] I do not believe Haig is so ignorant that he does not know that Libya is neutral. However, the U.S. pressures to which we are being subjected are strong and do not help Libya to remain neutral.

[Question] Does this mean that these pressures could push Libya into becoming completely pro-Soviet?

[Answer] Of course. We are not a people who can be pressured. As Churchill said: I am prepared to have the devil as an ally.

[Question] And the devil is the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Or the United States.

[Question] It has been said that Alexander Haig has ordered an investigation of the charge that some Americans have sold military expertise to Libya. He says 50 Americans are in Libya helping your government acquire military technology. Do you deny or confirm this?

[Answer] Address this question to Alexander Haig. It is he, not I, who is investigating.

[Question] What about the Libyan opposition?

[Answer] What do you mean by opposition in Libya? Opposition against whom? Anyone who is opposing us is opposing the people. There is nothing called opposition in Libya. Our system is a people's system. The opposition is a group of opportunists. Some of them have stolen money or borrowed large sums from a bank and then fled the country. Some former Libyan businessmen are now working abroad. They visit the people's bureaus and consider them to be theirs.

[Question] How would you describe Libya's relations with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Relations of friendship in the true sense of the word.

[Question] Do you not fear that the presence of Soviet experts and Libya's reliance on Soviet arms will lead to a repetition of what happened in Egypt?

[Answer] What happened in Egypt?

[Question] Egypt found itself hostage to the Soviet Union's will.

[Answer] This will not happen in Libya. Moreover, we have diverse arms sources. We buy from all sources.

[Question] How does Libya view the Reagan Administration and the effect this new administration will have on the Middle East crisis?

[Answer] Libya's views are not affected by the changes that take place in the White House. We believe there is continuity in U.S. policy.

[Question] It has been said that the establishment of a Palestinian state is imminent.

[Answer] Libya defined its stand on the Palestinian state at the conference of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. We rejected the state. We said it is a new product of Camp David. We believe that Palestine is for the Palestinians, and the Jews who used to live in Palestine have a right to stay. We offer this to the world as the ideal solution.

KLIBI SAID TO ASK ARABS TO SEND FORCES TO LEBANON

LD061722 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabi 1230 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] The brother leader yesterday received Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League. The secretary general explained to the brother leader that he has sent a cable to Arab kings and presidents in which he called on the Arab League states to implement the joint defense and economic cooperation treaty among the Arab countries and its military supplement signed on 13 April 1950 and to dispatch Arab land and air forces and air defense to defend Lebanon and the Palestinian revolution.

The secretary general said that the Arab League is now awaiting replies from Syria and Lebanon on adopting the necessary measures to implement the provisions of the treaty to ensure the freedom of Lebanon and the protection of the Palestinian revolution.

AL-QADHDHAFI CALLS ALGERIAN PRESIDENT ON ISRAEL

LD071004 Tripoli JANA in English 0835 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--It was learnt that Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi made a phonecall to President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria on the necessity of confrontation of "Israeli" challenge to Lebanon and Syria. The call also stressed the need to intensify contacts between Libya and Algeria and discussed the credit the Saharan people gained by the recognition of those countries visited by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and appeared in the joint communiques.

LEBANESE COMMUNIST LEADERS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

LD070634 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Brother Nadim Abd as-Samad, member of the Lebanese Communist Party Political Bureau, Brother Fawwaz at-Tarabulsi, member of the Political Bureau of the communist action organization and Brother Ahmad al-Khatib, commander of Lebanon's Arab army, arrived in Tripoli tonight on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah.

In a statement to JANA upon his arrival at Tripoli international airport, Al-Khatib confirmed that the problem of Lebanon was of interest to every Libyan Arab in view of the tragedies suffered by the Lebanese and the Palestinian people as a result of the war there. He pointed out that the purpose of his visit was to discuss those circumstances through which the Lebanese Arab people were going. He confirmed the determination of the nationalist forces in Lebanon to confront the imperialist-Zionist attack which is allied with the isolationist forces to hit at our Arab people in Lebanon.

Al-Khatib said that the 1 September Revolution and its leader embodied the anticipated hope and support for the steadfastness of the Lebanese people in the face of repeated imperialist attacks.

SUDAN

FROLINAT LEADER HOLDS KHARTOUM PRESS CONFERENCE

JN052050 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 5 May (SUNA)--(Hajru as-Sinusi), commander of the main Chadian national liberation front [Frolinat], said in a press conference he held here today that military solution of the Chadian issue is difficult and, therefore, he gives prominence to the political move to implement the Lagos agreement in order to restore stability to Chad. He added that within the next few days, he would call for holding a conference for the educated cadres in Chad and all the Chadian fronts in order to create a unified front opposing the Libyan regime and the Libyan agents inside Chad.

(As-Sinusi) called for raising the slogan of national unity and the decentralization of rule in Chad. He praised in this regard the experiences of Sudan and Nigeria in implementing the system of regional rule. He added that this is the only possible way of saving Chad from the crisis of war and tribal conflicts.

(As-Sinusi) launched a fierce attack on Libya, accusing it of standing behind the ongoing war in Chad. He explained that after the signing of the Lagos agreement on Chadian national unity, Libyan Foreign Minister at-Turayki arrived suddenly in Ndjamena and began to distribute huge amounts of the money he had brought with him, particularly to Goukouni Oueddei and Mohamat Abba Said, as well as many other Libyan agents.

(As-Sinusi) added that since then armed clashes had broken out between Habre and Acyl. (As-Sinusi) pointed out that clashes had been renewed in several areas inside and outside Ndjamena.

TUNISIA

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES PLO REPRESENTATIVES 6 MAY

LD061418 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 May 81

[Excerpt] This morning Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali received at government house in the Casbah members of the PLO 'Abd al-al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar and Talal Naji, in the presence of the head of the Political Affairs Section of the Arab World Department at the Foreign Ministry, Mohamed Imamou, and the PLO representative in Tunis, Hakam Bal'awi.

'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar handed Prime Minister Mzali two messages from Yasir 'Arafat to President Bourguiba and to himself, explaining personally the serious developments in Lebanon and the Israeli war of annihilation against the Palestinian people.

Abu Mayzar stated that he had expressed to Prime Minister Mzali the Palestinian leadership's dissatisfaction with the silence of some Arab official circles regarding the repeated Zionist attacks on the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and informed him of the Palestinian leadership's attitude as regards possible developments in the situation in the region. Abu Mayzar added that he had conveyed to Prime Minister Mzali the Palestinian people's appreciation of the role being played by Tunisia and its sincere support for the Palestinian issue.

KENYADEMONSTRATORS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT

LD061334 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 6 May 81 EA

[Text] Thousands of Garissa residents this morning turned into the streets to demonstrate against the so-called Northern Frontier Liberation Front.

A long procession of demonstrators marched from Garissa KANU office through Harambee Road, Kenyatta Avenue, Moi Street and the district commissioner's office to Garissa Primary School ground. As the demonstrators walked along the streets, they denounced and condemned the front, saying that Kenya is independent and no other independence was needed, adding: to hell with the liberation front--they will be crushed as we have crushed shifta elements.

The procession, which was organized by Garissa KANU branch, carried placards and President Moi's portrait saying: Nyayo juu, Nyayo juu [long live the Nyayo philosophy], and vowed that they were prepared to shed their blood if called liberators, whom they said did not exist in the province.

Among those who attended the procession included the Garissa KANU chairman, Mr Haji Dahir; an assistant minister for livestock development who is also the MP for Garissa, Central, Mr Abdi Aress; both urban and country council chairmen; and several government officials.

SOMALIAPARTY ORGANIZATION, LEADERSHIP CHANGES ANNOUNCED

LD061208 ogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 6 May 81 EA

[Statement issued by the President's Office 6 May]

[Text] Considering the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] leadership of the Somali masses, in response to the prevailing general situation and in pursuance of the revival policy of the 21 October 1969 revolution, changes in the setup of the SRSP bureaus and in subcommittees of the SRSP Central Committee and general administration have become imperative. At a meeting to discuss this issue, held 4-5 May and chaired by SRSP Secretary General Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, the members of the Political Committee and Central Committee adopted the following resolutions:

The posts of the general bureaus and Central Committee bureaus of the SRSP have been merged.

The Social, Health, and Scientific Research Bureaus have been merged to become the Social Affairs Bureau.

The Economic and Finance Bureaus have been merged to form the SRSP Economic Bureau.

Officials of the SRSP Central Committee and of the People's National Assembly have been named chairmen and vice chairmen of the bureaus and subcommittees of the SRSP Central Committee.

Two posts--SRSP planning secretary for party affairs and secretary of the Political Committee of the Supreme Revolutionary Council for party affairs--have been created.

The new chairmen and vice chairmen are as follows:

SRSP Central Committee Affairs Bureau

Chairman	Challe Omar Salad Elmi
Vice chairman	Challe Abd al-Qadir Mao Omar

SRSP Bureau of Organization and Mass Mobilization

Chairman	Challe Mohamud Abdi Dunkal
Vice chairman	Challe Abd ar-Rahman Gabo Mahmud

SRSP Bureau of Ideology

Chairman	Challe (Ahmad Said Naleye)
Vice chairman	Challe (Adan Husayn Khaire)

SRSP Bureau of Foreign Affairs

Chairman	Challe (Mohammud Hashi Egal)
[no vice chairman named]	

SRSP Bureau of Functionaries

Chairman	Challe Abdullahi Mohamed Hassan
Vice chairman	Challe (Ali Muhammad Hassan)

SRSP Economic Bureau

Chairman	Challe Hamza Mohamed Gadaweine
First vice chairman	Challe (Abd ar-Rahman Jama Muhammad)
Second vice chairman	Challe (Mahmud Abdi ali Beyr)

SRSP Social Affairs Bureau

Chairman	Challe (Yusuf ali Osman)
First vice chairman	Challe (Rashid Sheikh Abdullahi)
Second vice chairman	Challe (Ulumo Abd ar-Rahman)

SRSP Cooperatives Bureau

Chairman	Challe Warsama Abdillahi Ali
Vice chairman	Challe Mohamed Jama Haji Kore

SRSP Communal and Emergency Farming Bureau

Chairman	Challe Brig Gen Bile Rafle Gulaid
Vice chairman	Challe (Mako Maalim)

SRSP Central Committee Bureau of Inspection

Chairman	Challe Yusuf Ibrahim Ali Aburas
First vice chairman	Challe Abd ar-Rahman Husein Abdi Geydane
Second vice chairman	Challe (Mohamed Mahmud Robleh)

SRSP Central Committee Research Bureau

Chairman	Challe Mohamud Mahmud Warsama
Vice chairman	Challe (Mohamed Abdullahi)

CHADDISARMING OF CIVILIANS BEGINS RETURN TO NORMALCY

ABO61800 Paris AFP in French 1542 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Ndjamen, 6 May (AFP)--The systematic disarming of civilians which has begun in Ndjamen and the departure of Libyan soldiers from the civil airport are seen in the Chadian capital as indications of a return to normalcy.

President Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] has begun seizing all arms, especially from "pseudosoldiers," and the military police have been combing the capital in order to avoid clashes between the various factions, such as what happened in Abeche on 19, 20 and 21 April.

Bloody fighting--about 300 people dead, according to observers in Ndjamen--broke out in this strategic town 170 km from the Sudanese border between soldiers of the Front for Common Action [FAC], all of them Arabs, of Mr Aycl Ahmat, minister of foreign affairs of the GUNT, and Toubou soldiers of the People's Armed Forces [FAP] of President Goukouni Oueddei.

The FAC soldiers, who got Libyan artillery support and--according to some sources--Libyan air support, were able to wrench control of Abeche from the FAP.

The Libyans have completely abandoned the Ndjamen civil airport which is now placed under the control of the Chadian military police. Experts are working to repair airport installations damaged during the 5 and 6 October general attack by Hissein Habre's soldiers, thanks to UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and partly Libyan financial aid.

The GUNT leaders are awaiting the reopening of the Central Bank of Chad which has 14 billion CFA francs in its coffers. The authorities of the Bank of Central African States, with headquarters in Yaounde, are waiting for the green light from member states (Cameroon, CAR, Congo and Gabon) to reopen the bank, it is indicated in Ndjamen.

To this end, high hopes are placed in Ndjamen on the meeting between President Ahmadou Ahidjo of Cameroon and Goukouni Oueddei, scheduled for Thursday in Ngaoundere (midway between Yaounde and Ndjamen).

Informed sources in Chad also say that the departure of Libyan troops and their replacement by neutral forces are expected to figure high in the talks between the two heads of state.

Other signs of the return to normalcy: The official ceremony of resumption of judicial activities has just taken place in the presence of President Goukouni Oueddei. In his address to judges, the keeper of the seals, Mr Djona Golo, said that concern about the effectiveness of the Chadian judiciary was secondary to the need to suppress parallel courts. It is said that the minister was alluding to the people's committees (Frolinat mobilizing body) which have turned themselves into courts of justice since Ndjamen was taken over last December.

Observers also say that the reopening of the Lycee Felix Eboue and the Central Primary School are encouraging signs. The same goes for the reopening of two movie theaters (out of five) which function 3 hours a day when there is electricity.

On the other hand, the continued curfew beginning at 2200 and some 80,000 Chadian refugees still living in Kousseri (Cameroonian town situated on the other side of the Chari River) are some of the factors which show that there is still a long way to go before a total return to normalcy.

LE MONDE DISPATCH SEES EARLY PROGRESS UNLIKELY

LD061135 Paris LE MONDE in French 6 May 81 p 4

[Pierre Biarnes dispatch: "Divisions Within the Provisional Government Are Constantly Widening"]

[Text] Yaounde--Unless there is some last-minute hitch, President Goukouni Oueddei will meet with President Ahmadou Ahidjo in Ngaoundere, a city in northeast Cameroon, on Thursday, 7 May. This meeting, probably organized at the request of the Chad National Unity Transition Government [GUNT] leader, comes at a time when, after several months of relative calm following Hissein Habre's defeat in Ndjama last December, tension is again mounting dangerously in Chad.

With 1 week to go before the expiry of the 3-month period which the final resolution of the OAU heads of state "mini-summit" gave the GUNT in Lome in January to organize free elections throughout Chadian territory and secure the withdrawal of the Libyan troops, not only has neither of these two wishes yet begun to be carried out, but the provisional government which emerged from the Lagos agreements is more than ever fraught with internal dissent which is almost completely paralyzing its action.

Broadly-speaking the following main divisions can be observed: first, the traditional north-south opposition persists and is constantly growing between, on the one hand, the predominantly Sara majority black populations in the country's southernmost regions and, on the other, almost all the other ethnic groups in the center, east and north, which are less numerous and contain many half-castes.

Despite the end of the fighting the "southerners" who fled Ndjama as soon as clashes started in February 1979 have still not returned to the capital. This is true particularly of almost all the civil servants who formerly constituted the main part of the Chad civil service and who have been unpaid since then, cannot accept their loss of preeminence and are seized with feelings of impotent hatred for their northern compatriots, who hounded them from their former offices, and extreme bitterness toward France, which finally abandoned them to their fate after supporting them for decades. Moreover, most of the GUNT members who come from the south only make brief and rare appearances in Ndjama.

But this long-standing north-south opposition is now accompanied by increasingly serious divisions within each of the two camps, and both are now virtually split into three.

In the south, GUNT number two Colonel Kamougue is having to face two groups of opponents. On the other hand he is being increasingly openly opposed by Agriculture Minister Naimbaye Lossimian, who is attacking him with both extreme pro-Libyan and anti-French views--not without demagogic intentions. Mr Naimbaye, who voices the ousted civil servants' resentment, is trying to tempt former civil servants with Libyan petrodollars. In his stronghold of Moundou, where some 150 French nationals are once again in a tricky position, he is stirring up--as he did last spring--the xenophobic feelings of idle young people who are steppin up their extreme demands.

In addition, many officers from the former Chad regular army, who have never really accepted that circumstances placed them under the orders of a "policeman" (Colonel Kamougue originally came from the police corps), have recently rallied with the men around General (Djogo), one of their former chiefs of staff, not far from the Central African border and are virtually refusing to obey the GUNT vice president. The latter, who has taken refuge in his stronghold of Sar (formerly Fort Archambault) gives the impression of being increasingly isolated there.

Opposite this divided "southern" mass, the "northern" camp does not look much more united. It is still confronting Hissein Habre's forces, which are operating in the eastern part of the country, and it is also seriously threatened by the rivalry between Acyl Ahmat and President Goukouni Oueddei himself. The former, who is openly and almost exclusively supported by the Libyans, as was shown by the Abeche clashes in early April, seems to be in a position to impose himself quickly on the latter, who now seems to have little more in his favor than the relative prestige attached to his name, which is certainly preventing Colonel al-Qadhdhafi from liquidating him completely after making as much use of him as possible, especially with only 3 months to go before the next OAU summit. But Acyl's supporters increasingly have the upper hand in Ndjamen, where life has still not returned to normal.

It is in this context that the GUNT president is preparing to meet with his Cameroon counterpart, who played a crucial although discreet role in Lome in January in securing the adoption of resolutions which have not been followed through. Goukouni Oueddei seems to want to ask his interlocutor to resume his pressure on Libya. But, faced with the persistent apathy of Nigeria, which is also in the throes of serious internal problems and continues to tolerate the activities of Libyan troops on its eastern borders and even on its territory in the Maiduguri region, it is difficult to see what the Cameroon leaders could do to help the distressed Chadian leader. There is every reason to think that they will not depart from the extremely cautious attitude they have always adopted.

The latest developments in the conflict have prompted them to strengthen their defense network on their northern border over the past few months. In addition they apparently want the international community to give them more help in carrying the burden of some 150,000 refugees who refuse to leave Kousseri and return to Ndjamen, on the other bank of the Chari River.

France, moreover, has again lowered the level of its diplomatic representation to the GUNT by sending the former chief of its cooperation mission in the Chadian capital to replace the charge d'affaires it installed temporarily in the small Cameroon town last summer and who was recently recalled. Despite the repeated requests from President Goukouni Oueddei and some of his ministers, Paris is also more than ever adopting a cautious wait-and-see attitude.

PLANNED MEETING OF CADRES PUT OFF UNTIL LATER

AB062142 Paris AFP in French 1719 GMT 6 May 81

[Text] Ndjamen, 6 May (AFP)--Authoritative sources in Ndjamen announce that the meeting of Chadian cadres scheduled to take place late in April and which was to mark the political revival of the country has been put off--likely until later in May.

President Goukouni Oueddei had to make this decision himself due to the clashes at Easter between his soldiers and those of Foreign Minister Acyl Ahmat, which prevented him from undertaking his planned trips to the north and the east of the country.

Reliable sources say that in fact, Mr Goukouni intended to visit all the regions before presiding over the meeting of Chadian cadres and active elements. He has already visited the south.

LIBERIADOE RETURNS FROM GUINEA VISIT: COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

ABO42147 Paris AFP in French 1824 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] Monrovia, 4 May, (AFP)--The Liberian head of state returned to Monrovia on Monday evening following a 1-day working visit to Guinea. Master Sergeant Doe held a 3-hour talk behind closed doors in Conakry with Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure, reliable sources indicated from the Liberian capital.

An official communique issued in Monrovia specifies that the two men expressed satisfaction about the improvement of relations between the two countries, especially in the economic field. They cited as an example the Mano River Union which unites Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone; and the Nimba Iron mining project [Mifergui] which, observers say, will enable Guinea iron ore being mined at the border area of Mount Nimba to be transported to the Liberian port of Buchanan for export through the railroad which has previously been used to transport iron ore mined from the same region from the Liberian side.

Master Sergeant Doe's visit to Guinea was the second since taking over power by a coup d'etat on 12 April 1980.

GASOLINE SALES REDUCED DUE TO TEMPORARY BREAKDOWN

ABO42131 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 4 May 81

[Text] A Commerce Ministry release issued in Monrovia today said sales of gasoline in the country will be reduced for 4 days effective today due a temporary breakdown of the regeneration unit at the Liberian Petroleum Refinery Company. The release quoted the Commerce Ministry in Monrovia as saying a ship bringing a supply of gasoline is expected to arrive in the country over the weekend to relieve the situation. The public is therefore advised to conserve gasoline consumption during this period.

The Commerce Ministry also directed that all gas stations in the Monrovia and upland areas be closed at 1900 from today to Thursday to ensure the availability of gasoline for necessary usage.

In a related development, acting Commerce Minister John Ramsey told the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY today that there will be no increase in the price of gasoline for the time being. Minister Ramsey said to help alleviate the problem, filling stations have been instructed to sell not more than five gallons of gas to a vehicle at a time. He said filling stations on attendance have also been instructed not to sell gasoline in containers to customers.

When asked about the average situation the temporary [as heard] could have on both commercial and private vehicle owners, Minister Ramsey said the situation is regrettable, but the refinery can do nothing to remedy the situation right now.

NIGERIAOIL PRODUCTION DOWN DUE TO WORLD SURPLUS

ABO70751 Paris AFP in English 0707 GMT 7 May 81

[Text] Lagos, May 7 (AFP)--Nigeria's oil production fell in February from two million barrels a day to 1.94 million, according to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. Exports reached an average 1.68 million b/d, statistics of the state company said. Nigeria produced 2.05 million b/d over 1980.

The fall in the country's production began with a glut on the world market, and according to the specialist Middle East economic survey, current Nigerian crude production is between 1.6 million and 1.7 million b/d. The American Atlantic Richfield Company last month cancelled a contract for the production of 30,000 b/d of Nigerian crude.